

JUNE/JULY 19

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 75 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! We've got another incredible issue for you with all the best stories, photos and videos from around the world. Rou Chater takes an in-depth look at foiling and how it has changed so much thanks to the influence of the growing surf scene.

Paulino Pereira heads off to Cape Verde on a swell strike mission and scores it big time! Aaron Hadlow and Lewis Crathern come to the rescue for Ruben Lenten, and we have Karolina Winkowska in the hot seat for female focus. There is a load more inside, including tests, interviews and technique!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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- TO FOIL OR NOT TO FOIL -

CAPE VERDE SHOWS ITS TEETH / THE HADLOW EXPERIENCE / KAROLINA WINKOWSKA TESTS, TECHNIQUE AND MUCH MORE INSIDE!

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

SELECT YOUR
FLIGHT MODE

SPIRIT FOIL RANGE

NEW BY DUOTONE

"BY SIMPLY SWAPPING OVER THE WINGS,
I CAN QUICKLY GO FROM CARVING IN THE
WAVES TO TOP SPEEDS ON THE WATER."

JEAN GUILLAUME RIVAUD



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CARBON WINGS



SPIRIT FREERIDE
CARBON COMPOUND WINGS



SPIRIT GT
CARBON WINGS



SPIRIT SURF
CARBON WINGS

ONEHISTORY



FREE RIDE

Annelous Lammerts

📷 J. Boulding



NEW

HI:RISE VARIAL

All Around / All Sport

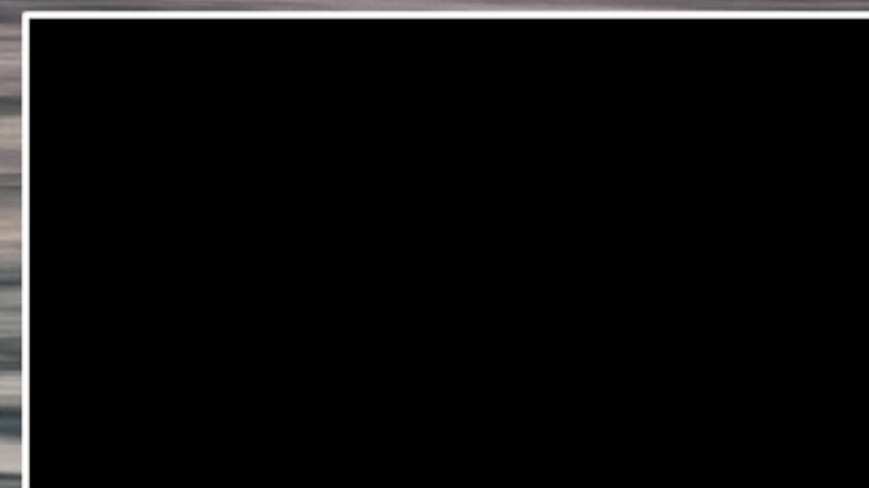
Wings: Small / Medium / Large
Masts: Small - 65cm / 85cm
Medium & Large - 65cm

NEW

HI:RISE CARVE

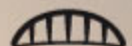
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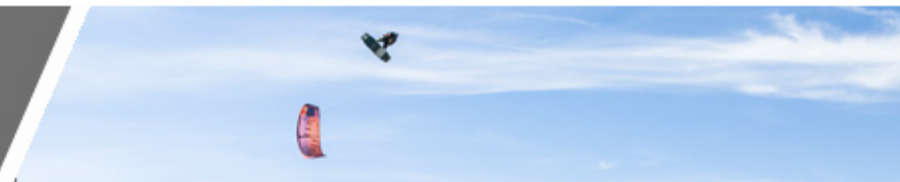
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DAVID TONIQUAN GETTING HIS CARVE ON!
PHOTO SAMUAL CARDENAS





RIDER LACI KOBULSKY
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



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ISSUE 75 I'm back!

EDITORIAL

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US

Those of you who have been following, or no doubt getting bored of, my ankle updates will be pleased to know I'm back! A couple of weeks ago, I had my first session in nine and a half months in Tarifa at the Naish Dealer Meeting. It was a gentle cruise on a strapless foil set up, but damn did it feel good!

I've had a handful of foil sessions since, I'm a bit rusty, but the skills are coming back slowly. Regardless of how much my skills have diminished after so much time off, there is nothing quite like the freedom of cruising around on the foil enjoying being above the ocean! I'm planning on kiting as much as possible over the next few months to make up for the time I've missed!

Ten months to the day since the crash and the ankle even got a full test the other day when a big storm front rolled through the English Channel. Alex and I

drove down to Camber Sands with a 40mph forecast looking gusty but solid. When we checked the live cam before we made the long drive, it had dropped to 30mph, perfect, or so we thought!

By the time we rigged up, it was back with a vengeance, the swell was massive, and we managed to get both kites launched only to watch Alex's twin tip with bindings take off and tomahawk down the beach! Board retrieved, I thought it would never stop, we hit the water.

Riding a surfboard in huge storm swell in a gale was a challenge for the ankle, but it held up incredibly well, and I loved every minute of the session, despite being overpowered on the 5m Duotone Neo I had launched. I got some great waves, stayed out for an hour or so until the ankle felt like it had had enough.

When we got back to the van we checked the weather history, it had been blowing between 48 and 56mph! No wonder I felt a touch overpowered. I actually think that's the windiest I've ever kited in the UK. Nothing like a baptism of fire for the ankle. Meanwhile, the Red Bull Megaloop Challenge was going off in Holland, I guess that's the rubber stamp for a solidly windy day!

There we have it, the ankle still hurts, still swells up, but if it can handle huge swell and gale force winds then it's as good as fixed in my book!

Here's to the next session!

Rou Chater

Publishing Editor

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DWARF CRAFT
MICRO
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GHOST WHISPER
91 CM



GHOST WHISPER
101 CM



GHOST WHISPER
111 CM



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TO FOIL OR NOT TO FOIL?

IT'S NO LONGER A QUESTION!

Rou Chater looks at how kite foiling has developed at an alarming rate in recent years and thanks to the influence of surf foiling how the wings we ride have changed too. Kite foiling has never been easier to learn, it's a weapon everyone should have in their kiting arsenal!

PHOTO CABRINHA



“THE FIRST FOILS WERE HIGH ASPECT WINGS DESIGNED TO GO AS FAST AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT MUCH REGARD FOR EASE OF USE.”

Kite foiling is perhaps the most exciting and fastest developing area of our sport, however, it didn't start in a traditional manner, and usually these sports start out slow and then go fast. Foils for kites were the opposite; driven by the race scene in France the first foils were high aspect wings designed to go as fast as possible without much regard for ease of use.

Liquid Force arguably changed the game with the Foil Fish in 2015, a cheaper set up aimed at making progression easy, yet if we look at the specs of the wing and the mast, and how hard it was to learn, we're still a way off user friendliness. Slingshot then took a different approach with the short mast system, which made learning to foil suddenly a very achievable goal for any kiter with some reasonable skills.

However the goal was still fast race or freeride wings for kites. I recall a friend buying a foil to learn on a couple of years ago and he opted for the fastest most race spec set up he could find. Using the argument he didn't want to "grow out of it". Kite foiling was very much still going in the wrong direction.

Last year I was in Sardinia at a press launch and I had an epiphany. Sadly I broke my leg not long afterwards and my ideas were put on hold, but now I'm back on the water I'm preaching the good word. I rode a SUP wing in Sardinia, it was a massive behemoth of a thing, about an inch and a half thick, designed to lift a SUP board and rider off the water at a low speed take off point and allow them to fly.

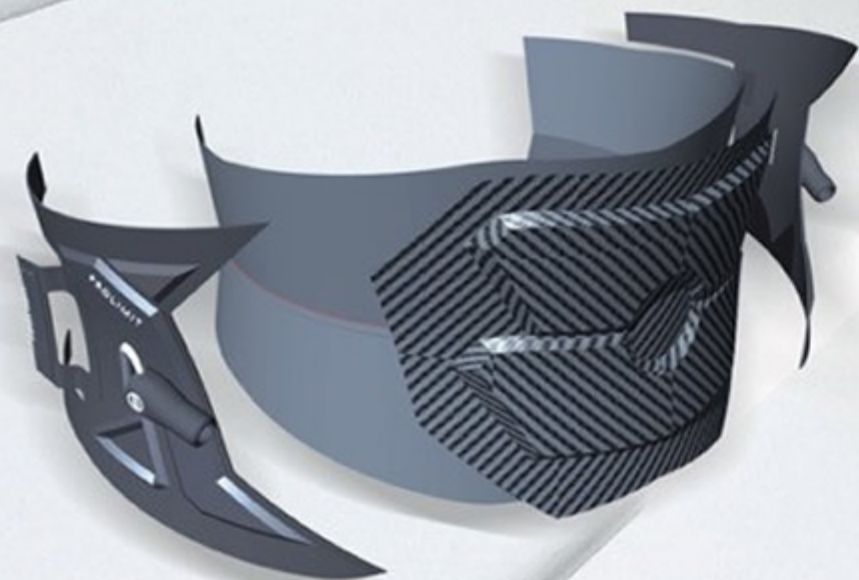


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“ FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY FOUR YEAR FOILING HISTORY I DIDN’T DROP A GYBE OR A TACK AND I NEVER DROPPED OFF THE FOIL ”

There was about 6-7 knots of wind, barely enough to launch the 9m kite I had pumped up. I got told I’d need a 17m or bigger, but I knew better. A smaller kite is faster, lighter and easier to keep in the sky in really light winds. I was dubious as to whether the set up would work, but I jumped on, dived the kite and off I went.

I rode for about an hour, and for the first time in my four year foiling history I didn’t

drop a gybe or a tack and I never dropped off the foil. I surprised even myself. It was an incredible feeling, the foil underneath me was so stupidly stable I could be dancing like an elephant as I waddled round the gybes and it didn’t flinch. I was dropping the board speed down to almost zero and the wing would not stall.

It kept on flying. It was almost like the foil had so much buoyancy it was keeping me up out of the water, but it was the incredible profile and shape working the magic.

Something I thought wouldn’t be much fun and wouldn’t be that fast suddenly was the

best foiling session I had had in years. Here’s the crux of the issue, I love foiling, I love going fast, but I’m never going to race and I’m probably just going to fly my inflatable wave kites with my foil. Therefore, do I really need a small racey front wing; surely a bigger more forgiving wing is all I need to have fun on the water.

Arguably we have surf foiling to thank for all of this, for sure there were some bigger wave style wings around before, but surf foiling has pushed the development of wings to new levels. When I was at the F-One offices recently they showed me their huge 1800 wing, it wouldn’t look out of place on the rear end of a humpback. It is literally huge.



“ THESE BIG WINGS ARE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF LIFT AT LOW SPEED ”

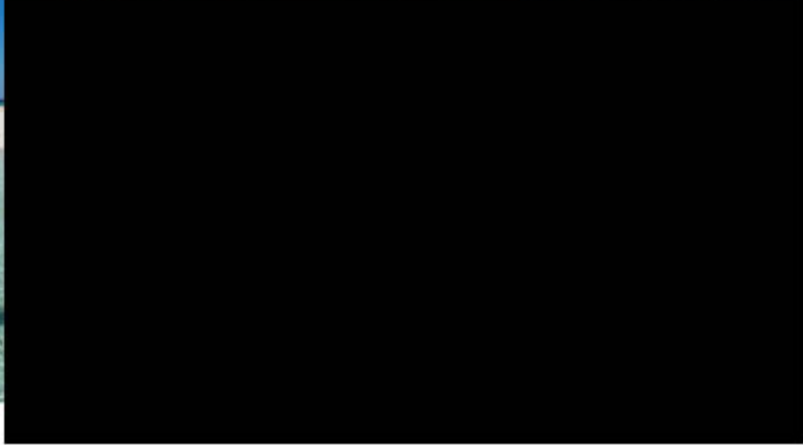
Bear in mind, two years ago I was leaning to SUP foil with the F-One crew in Mauritius on a 1200 wing which at the time was considered huge and there was a prototype 1400 wing kicking about that looked ridiculous. The basic premise is this, surf foiling is hard, but a bigger wing makes it easy. Naval Architect Charles Bertrand reckoned the 1800 wing makes it twice as easy as the 1600 wing.

It's not just the size, it's the shape, these big wings are designed to produce incredible amounts of lift at low speed, with a stable nature that can take the odd foot in the wrong place. Surf wings have doubled in size in a year, and I joked with Charles that maybe they will double again next year, he said anything was possible.

Of course, a larger wing is going to be less manoeuvrable and slower due to the drag coefficient, but when you are learning you don't want speed and manoeuvrability, you just want stability. As the surf wings got bigger more and more riders had the same idea I was having over in Sardinia.

I've spoken to numerous people about this article and most of the people in the know are leaning towards bigger wings and smaller kites. A bigger more stable wing is easier to use, more fun to carve around and makes wave riding without overtaking the kite possible. By big I'm not talking massive surf wings if you have some skill, but a more sensible, low aspect and forgiving design that offers huge amounts of lift and a really low stall speed.





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“JUST HOW BIG AND SMALL YOU WANT TO GO IS UP TO YOU AND YOUR OWN RIDING STYLE”

A smaller kite enables you to ride with less power, less pull and have a tool that is far more manoeuvrable. Just how big and small you want to go is up to you and your own riding style, many of you will want speed and decide to stay in the race and freeride area, but those of you who like to experiment might be thinking about trying something completely different, if you haven't already.

This moves us on to another aspect of modern kite foiling; it's all so interchangeable.

When the first boards came out standards were far from the market. Tuttle boxes, deep tuttle boxes, twin US tracks, K boxes and numerous others were used to connect the board and the mast. Brands even had different standards within their ranges.

Now we seem to be in the rarefied position of at least a standard US track system for the main connection to the board. This means we can use a multitude of boards with different foils and this is something we will reflect in our future tests. Boards will be seen as interchangeable with different wings so we'll test them separately. One brands board and another brands foil is now, for the most part, no problem.

The foils are all interchangeable too, you can put a different front wing on a set up to completely change your ride, although this is still brand specific. We could be entering a realm of having a handful of wings like we have a handful of kites. The development is really incredible when you think about it. Fancy doing some coastal cruising with your friends at speed? Chuck on the fast wing. Waves looking good? Go for the slower surf wing and shred a few! Or perhaps, you want to keep it simple, there is absolutely no reason you can't kite foil with your surf foil set up. One foil to rule them all as they say. I did just this in Tarifa recently riding the Naish Hover 5'2" surf foil board with the 65cm mast and the 1250 wing, which happens to be Kevin Langeree's go to set up for surf foiling.





It was a fun set up to use, and worked really well with the kite, although the lack of rocker in the board made for some fun wipeouts! With so many options out there now from the brands the possibilities are endless. Just think, 5-6 years ago the only foils available were full on race machines that were almost impossible to learn on.

There has never been a better time to get into foiling, if you haven't tired it yet make 2019 the year you give it a go, a short mast and massive wing will make your progress swift.

“ IF YOU HAVEN'T
TIRED IT YET
MAKE 2019 THE
YEAR YOU GIVE
IT A GO ”



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SIZES: 5 // 7 // 9 // 11 // 13

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“ I GUESS THE WAY WE LOOK AT FOILING NEEDS TO CHANGE JUST LIKE THE FOILS THEMSELVES HAVE. ”

If you are already into it and struggling to master those tacks and gybes, look at your front wing, how big is it? Could you go up a few sizes and make your sessions more enjoyable and successful?

If you're a foiling expert then why not consider getting a big wing just to experience the feeling, it's amazing how big you can go, the bigger the wing the smaller the kite, take a 5m for a spin in 15 knots with a SUP wing and be surprised.

I guess the way we look at foiling needs to change just like the foils themselves have. Foiling should be fun, it doesn't have to be hard and riding the smallest wing possible isn't necessarily the endgame here.

Having a massive grin on your face is...

Here are my 10 updated top tips for beginners...

1: Wear a helmet and buoyancy aid/impact vest, you will crash and you will be grateful you are wearing the extra protection.

2: Start in a reasonable amount of wind, 15-20mph, but use an underpowered kite at first, yes you can ride in really light winds, but this is an advanced technique and takes skill, when learning you need enough wind so you don't have to steer the kite up and down and you can concentrate on flying the foil.

3: Learn to body drag and manoeuvre the board into various positions while you are in the water first.





“MORE POWER WILL HELP YOU RIDE, BUT TOO MUCH WILL SEE YOU OUT OF CONTROL. IT IS WORTH WAITING FOR THE BEST CONDITIONS.”

4: When you crash, try and keep your arms close to your body, instinct makes you put a hand out, if you are riding a full size mast the leverage and forces in the crash will make them hurt.

5: As you get more confident go out a little

more powered. More power will help you ride, but too much will see you out of control, it is worth waiting for the best conditions. Sheet in and out to adjust the riding height of the foil, this really helps with your first few attempts! As you progress you'll find you can handle bigger winds and lighter winds too riding an overpowered foil takes as much skill as getting one going when there isn't enough wind.

6: Learn to ride across the wind first, these

things blast upwind with ease, so getting across the wind cracked will make it easier when you come to ride downwind.

7: Riding downwind you need the perfect amount of power in the kite, if you are over-powered the foil will keep rising up out of the water and chucking you off. Depower the kite and this should calm down...

8: Be patient, it takes time to get this cracked, but with the right equipment, like a great set up (short mast and big front wing) you will progress quickly.



“ REMOVE THE STRAPS TO LEARN TACKS AND GYBES, BEING ABLE TO MOVE YOUR FEET EASILY WILL AID PROGRESS ”

These days you can learn to foil in an afternoon rather than a week!

9: Use a front strap at first; this will help you waterstart keep it loose though so your feet can come out.

10: Once you have cracked riding remove the straps to learn tacks and gybes, being able to move your feet easily will aid progress, but you will need to hold the rail of the board and steer the kite with one hand during the water start which is tricky to learn, especially in light winds. A board with low volume and a foil that floats will make strapless waterstarts easier.

11: HAVE FUN!



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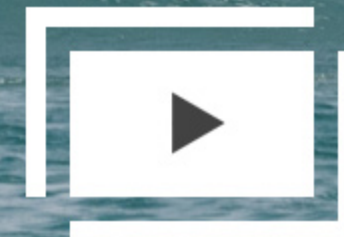
NAISH

NAILING THE SWELL

WORDS PAULINO PEREIRA
PHOTOS RICARDO PINTO



Paulino Pereira isn't your typical pro kiteboarder, the Portuguese ripper has been a regular feature on the GKA World Tour where he consistently gives the likes of Airton, Matchu and Mitu a run for their money! When you consider he holds down a "full time" job, it makes his achievements even more impressive. His ability to handle huge conditions is undeniable, and his recent trip to Cape Verde showcased just how versatile a rider he is!





“ IN MY OPINION, SAL IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO TRAIN FOR WAVE RIDING AND STRAPLESS FREESTYLE.”

Living in Lisbon, I'm lucky as I'm just a 4-hour direct flight away from the Cape Verde Islands.

This past winter, the wind conditions have been unusually unreliable in Portugal, and so, I was constantly checking the forecast on Sal Island, knowing the winds and swells were bound to hit!

Earlier this year, Sal had amazing swells, which I was gutted to miss due to work commitments, but I was eager to make a trip over there as soon as possible. In my opinion, Sal is the perfect place to train for wave riding and strapless freestyle. You can get left and right-handers with ideal conditions. My favourite spot on earth is Ponta Preta; that wave is unbeatable!

My GKA tour mates Matchu Lopes and Ralph Boelen had been in Santa Maria for over a month, training, and they constantly kept me updated on the conditions. Even though we are competitors on the World Tour, we continuously support each other, and we are great friends!

Finally, I received the news I'd been desperately waiting for, two big swells were coming from Northwest that would hit the islands spot on, and the numbers were looking encouraging! I checked flights and gave my boss notice that I would need to take a few days off to tend to some serious business. He rolled his eyes, knowing exactly what I meant! I think he is used to it by now with all the competitions I've been to recently. I'm so grateful that I can leave at the drop of a hat!



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“ JUGGLING WORK AND TRAINING MAKES IT HARD TO STAY ON TOP OF MY GAME ”

I work for the Portuguese Air Force as an aircraft electronics mechanic. In a nutshell, I'm responsible for the maintenance of the planes. People often ask me how I get so much free time to do the World Tour. As I work for the Portuguese State, I represent Portugal on tour, and I have a special permit to compete in world competitions. As long as I work out my time off with my colleagues, and make sure the progress of the workflow is maintained, then it's all good! Of course, I can't be travelling all the time. Juggling work and training makes it

hard to stay on top of my game, especially during the winter months where the wind isn't very consistent in Portugal, and I am unable to train at home. However, somehow, I've managed to make it work.

I got a call from Matchu saying that Ponta Preta would be on fire with the forecast coming through, and if a local says this, then it must be true! It was time to get the ball rolling! Not wanting to miss the opportunity, I organised a video shoot with photographers Ricardo Pinto and Diogo Cardoso. I try my best to promote Ozone with images and videos as much as possible, as they have supported me for many years and also, it's a great excuse to ride for fun in between

competing, and squeeze in an adventure!

The conditions were indeed pumping all the week; there was plenty of time in between the competition to make trips to the north of the island where we scored some spectacular solo sessions. Yes, alone, just me, myself scoring the clean sets one after another for the photographer - a dream come true! There are a few spots on the north coast that are very risky if you get yourself into trouble. That's why there are usually only a handful of people riding over there. Being alone is not the best example to follow, even if it was a dream, the risks are high. If in doubt, stay safe, don't do what I do!

Back to the competition, Ponta Preta as I said before is my ultimate favourite spot for wave kiting, and I feel confident competing in the conditions there.



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MYSTIC



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“ I WAS THRILLED TO GET THE BEST SCORE ON THE FIRST DAY, JUST LIKE I HAD DONE THE PREVIOUS YEAR. IT WAS A PERFECT DEEP BARREL ”

I usually ride with the Reo as the wind is a bit offshore, and it makes it way easier. People regularly ask me how I can snap, and bottom turn like it was side-wind conditions, I think it's down to the Reo's good de-power, drift and low weight characteristics, it makes it forgiving and easy to handle. I was thrilled to get the best score on the first day, just like I had done the previous year. It was a perfect deep barrel; probably one of the best ones I've ever experienced there. The barrels in Ponta Preta usually are not so hollow, and I got the chance to shine on a deep one, and that was phenomenal!

My results were ok, my mission was to get a spot on the podium, but the level of riding is exceptionally high. During the competition, there is a lot to account for; wave selection, barrel or snap, air or floater. It's always a big decision of what to include in the flow, and sometimes, a tiny mistake can set you back, and you can end up losing by 0.3 points in the semifinals heat, and that's just how it went for me, unfortunately!

Once the competition was over for me, we had more time to get some great sessions on Sal Island; both wave and freestyle. Even though we were driving a lot, we still managed to get in three to four sessions a day, taking all the juice from the swell that was continually hitting the island and getting some insane shots.

We got lucky when the waves filled in a lagoon just in front of Ponta Preta. A perfectly mirror flat lagoon where we took a lot of photos and freeride videos.





“ THE RESULTING IMAGES WERE UNIMAGINABLE, A TRULY ONCE IN A LIFETIME SESSION. ”

If that lagoon existed all year, I could easily see the wakestyle riders coming here to train; it was like Cauipe, simply incredible!

One of the places worth a visit on the island is the famous salt ponds of Pedra Lume known as 'Salinas of Sal Island'. Pedra de Lume has been famous for its salt ponds forming in the middle of a natural crater, exploitation of which began in the early 18th century. Reading up on it, geologists say the waters in the lake rise from deep in the earth rather than from lateral infiltration from the ocean. It is hard to believe there is always water in it, even though it seldom rains. Its deep infiltrations make it an automatic salt factory, giving meaning to the name of the island.

I'm sure all kiteboarders that visit Salinas think, how magical it would it be to kiteboard there! I've said the same many times, but it is a natural reserve, and they don't usually allow kiteboarding. With the camera crew at hand, this was one of those opportunities not to miss, and we decided to go for it.

The resulting images were unimaginable, a truly once in a lifetime session. Rest assured, we didn't go illegally! We tracked down the owner, and he gave us special permission as long as we were quick, respected the wildlife and didn't go anywhere close to the visitors.

As we drove in, it all came together! The wind, although gusty, was howling, and we found a spot in the red lake that matched the red Enduro I was riding. I couldn't believe I could tick this off my wish list.





It was a fantastic experience but also quite painful, the salt got into all the cuts on my legs and stung like hell.

There was a small grassy area where I managed to launch the kite without scratching it, the rest of the area was extremely abrasive, easy to cut your feet, as well as your kite! The salt is so rough on the bottom that when you hit it with the board, it feels like concrete. My poor CodeV1 came out with a fair amount of scratches, ones I now look at fondly reminding me of this extraordinary experience!

“THE SALT IS SO ROUGH ON THE BOTTOM THAT WHEN YOU HIT IT WITH THE BOARD, IT FEELS LIKE CONCRETE.”

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**“ THE WHOLE TRIP WAS TERRIFIC;
THE SWELL PRODUCED WAVES
THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF! ”**

By the end of the session, even though it was short, I was completely white, full of salt from head to toe, and beyond thirsty... thirsty for more!

The whole trip was terrific; the swell produced waves that dreams are made of! I got a top scoring wave in the competition, I had barreling waves to myself, I rode the salt lagoon, and we went home with beautiful images and videos.

This place is so special and unique; I feel fortunate to ride and enjoy these islands and to have friends there that keep me connected to the swell updates! Now I am back at work, but I always keep an eye on the forecast ready for the next dream swell to appear.



**“ I FEEL FORTUNATE TO RIDE AND ENJOY THESE ISLANDS
AND TO HAVE FRIENDS THERE THAT KEEP ME CONNECTED
TO THE SWELL UPDATES! ”**

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[FEMALE FOCUS]

KAROLINA WINKOWSKA

WORDS JEN TYLER



Karolina Winkowska needs no introduction! After being on the World Tour podium 62 times with 23 wins, she is a force to be reckoned with! Karolina grew up in Warsaw, Poland where the summers were short, and the winters were challenging. In 2004, she started kiteboarding, and three years later, she started travelling the world to pursue her goal to become freestyle kiteboarding World Champion. Karolina shares the ups and downs she has experienced along the way in this issue's 'Female Focus'.



KAROLINA, IT'S GREAT TO CATCH UP WITH YOU! CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IT WAS LIKE GROWING UP IN WARSAW? WHAT WAS YOUR FAMILY LIKE, AND HOW DID YOU GET INTO KITEBOARDING?

As a professional athlete, it was pretty tough growing up in Warsaw. There aren't many places to go kiteboarding, and I never got the support I needed from my country, to be honest. The only people that truly helped my career were my parents, and the support from small private sponsors.

I started kiteboarding in 2004 with my father, who was previously a professional windsurfer. He was always supportive and helping me through the challenges I encountered during my career. He has always been my biggest fan, following every event and cheered for me every single step of the way. My mother, on the other hand, was hesitant and wasn't sure whether this was the right path for me, but never the less, she always trusted and encouraged my choices.

I never wanted to get stuck in the 'system' after high school, the way everyone else around me did. So, at the age of 15, I figured out a way to live my life, without revolving it around a 9-5 job, and this was my greatest accomplishment!

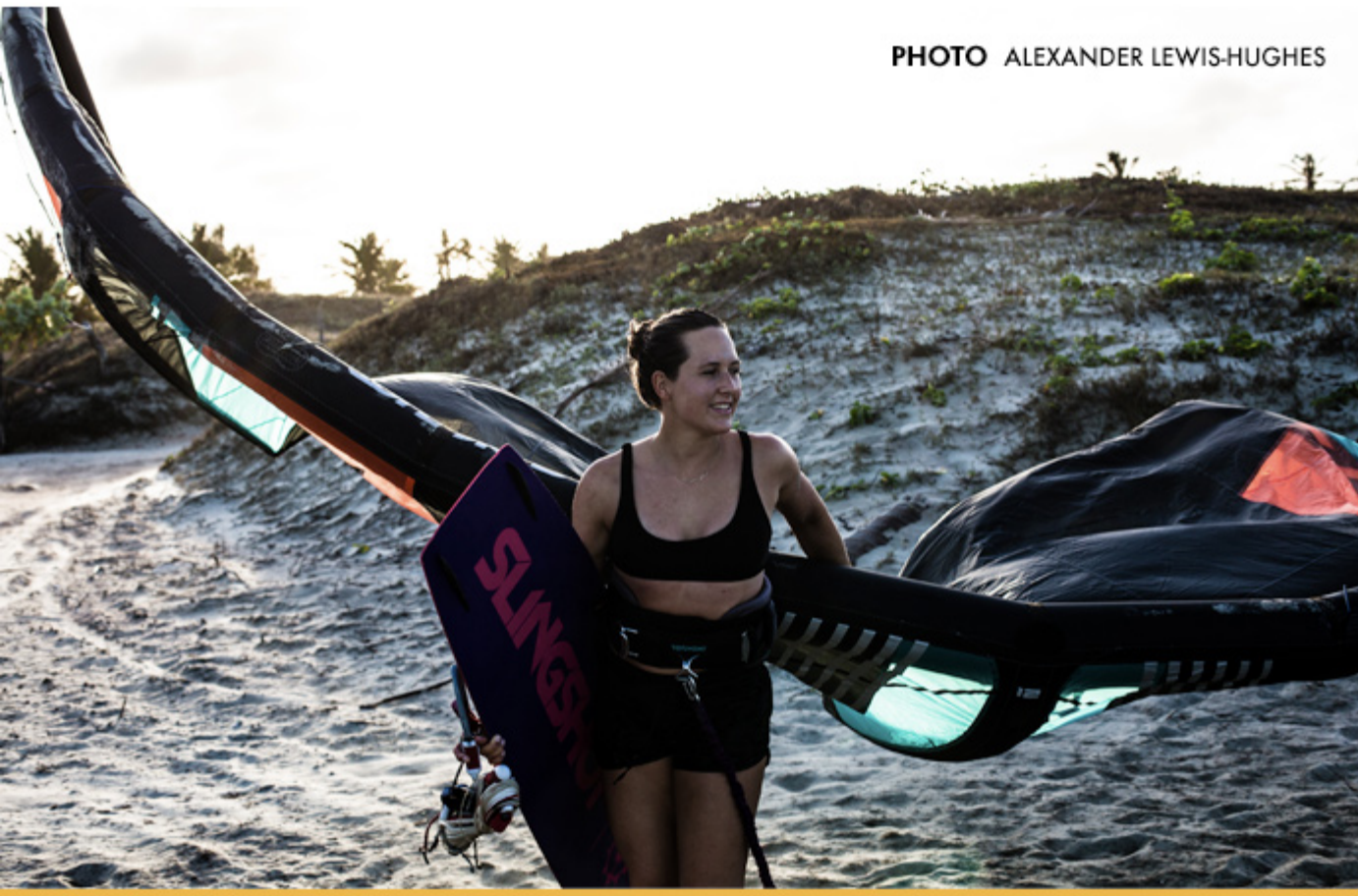
Life is different in Poland today; it has become a lot more open-minded to the world and encourages the younger generation to spread their wings, regardless of what path they choose in life.

PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



" I FIGURED OUT A WAY TO LIVE MY LIFE,
WITHOUT REVOLVING IT AROUND A
9-5 JOB "

PHOTO ALEXANDER LEWIS-HUGHES



DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A PROFESSIONAL FEMALE KITEBOARDER, WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF IT, AND WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU FACE?

For me, kiteboarding was always about progressing my riding, doing more complicated tricks, and pushing my limits. In between training and competitions, I never had time to get all dressed up and look 'pretty'!

Luckily, when I joined the World Tour, I met other female riders, who like me, aspired to ride better than most men on this planet! When I was in high school, I didn't have many friends that I could relate to, nor share my passion with; everyone was more concerned with fashion,

" I NEVER HAD TIME TO GET ALL DRESSED UP AND LOOK 'PRETTY!' "

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Rider: Reece Myerscough Photographer: Jay Wallace

" AS MUCH AS EVERYONE ASKS ME IF I AM GOING TO WIN, I AM MORE CONCENTRATED ON HAVING A GOOD TIME DURING THE EVENT! "



PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

makeup and going out. Today, I have many female friends who travel the world, run kiteboarding businesses, and are incredible kiteboarders!

YOU WERE 3X KITEBOARDING WORLD CHAMPION, WHAT LED YOU TO DECIDE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION MAINLY ON PARK RIDING INSTEAD OF FREESTYLE?

I had been competing on the Freestyle World Tour for ten years. I was exhausted from travelling, unfair judging, and overall the competition format I've been following for so long. 2015 was a turbulent year, and this made it easier for me to stop and do something

different for a change. The Kite Park League was an excellent opportunity for me to compete, and travel the world, but with a much less intense schedule, and less stress!

YOU SMASHED IT AND CLAIMED 1ST AT THE WIND VOYAGER TRIPLE-S INVITATIONAL LAST YEAR, CONGRATULATIONS! HOW ARE YOU MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY PREPARING YOURSELF FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT?

Thank you, I am 100x better prepared for it this year! Last year, I had recently come out of shoulder surgery, and I had barely ridden before the event.

Nevertheless, as much as everyone asks me if I am going to win, I am more concentrated on having a good time during the event!

The Kite Park League is a community of talented riders that genuinely enjoys hanging out together! I never experienced this during the Freestyle Tour; most riders would never even talk to you as they were so focused.

The KPL is not a 'World Tour', and the Wind Voyager Triple-S Invitational is not about winning. When you read the instructions for the wild card videos, it says 'we're looking for riders that like to have a good time!'



PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

YOU'VE BEEN RIDING FOR SLINGSHOT FOR MANY YEARS, AND EVEN HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE MODEL BOARD. WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SET UP, AND WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE KAROLINA PRO BOARD?

As a professional athlete, I have travelled to numerous challenging locations, and I need a board that works for me in a variety of conditions; from strong winds to light winds, from wavy to choppy water. This is how the Karolina PRO was created.

The Karolina Pro is on its 4th season now, and we changed it more towards freeride, amateur rider.

“ WE CHANGED IT MORE TOWARDS FREERIDE, AMATEUR RIDER ”

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" THEY GET TO DEMO THE LATEST SLINGSHOT GEAR, GET HELP WITH THEIR RIDING AS WELL AS TAKE THEIR FIRST KITEBOARDING LESSON FOR FREE. "

PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

As I have changed my discipline of riding, and spend more time leisure riding, I realised I needed more diverse equipment. I can do all my more challenging tricks on this board, but in general, this board is the smoothest and easiest-going board I've ever ridden.

HOW HAVE YOUR SPONSORS HELPED YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS AS A PROFESSIONAL KITEBOARDER?

A lot, riding for the best kiteboarding brand (Slingshot), has helped my riding and progression. Riding proper quality gear is essential when it comes to fast progress and peace of mind. My equipment has never failed me during severe conditions (touch wood!), nor in the most remote destinations. Many riders struggle with their gear instead of focusing on their riding. Thankfully, I've never been in that situation since I joined the Slingshot team!

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT "THE QUEEN OF HEL" EVENT, AND HOW THE IDEA WAS BORN?

Yes! It's a female-specific kiteboarding event dedicated to all women kiteboarders. The idea came about when Kasia Lange and I, we were travelling together during the world cup events. We wanted to share kiteboarding knowledge with other female kiteboarders in Poland, and connect as many female riders as possible in the area. Our first event was held in 2016, and since then, it has become our tradition to organise a special female event every year.

Over 50 girls get involved during the event, and they get to demo the latest Slingshot gear, get help with their riding as well as take their first kiteboarding lesson for free. It's an excellent opportunity to meet other female riders, talk about travelling and kite gear!

PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



The event takes a lot of work and organisation, but it is incredibly gratifying when you meet so many badass women who share the same passion with you!

YOU HAVE TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE WORLD TO GO KITEBOARDING! WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO RIDE, AND WHERE'S THE NEXT LOCATION ON THE MAP YOU WANT TO EXPLORE?

I love riding in Australia, the variety of different conditions and empty spots are unbeatable! I enjoy wave riding and flat water spots, and Australia has one of the best spots for both. I usually go to the East as well as the West coast of Australia, as they both offer incredible spots for kiteboarding, surfing and wakeboarding.

“ THE VARIETY OF DIFFERENT CONDITIONS AND EMPTY SPOTS ARE UNBEATABLE! ”

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“ RESPECT THE WEATHER, RESPECT YOUR GEAR,
AND ALWAYS RELEASE THE SAFETY FIRST! ”



PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

My next trip will be to Cape Hatteras for the Triple S Invitational, and then I'll be spending the summer in Hood River; I can't wait! It's windy every day, all day long, the vibe at the beach is fantastic, and there are so many fun things going on!

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE RIDERS TO TRAIN WITH AND WHO INSPIRES YOU?

I love riding with KPL girls; Colleen, Annelous, Sensi, Katie, Julia, Issy, Lindsey, and whoever else is joining us! As much as I spend a lot of time riding with the boys, there is nothing better than shredding

with the ladies!

ANY TIPS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE UP AND COMING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SHREDDERS?

Yes, keep shredding, keep inspiring, and have hell a lot of fun when doing it!

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN TROUBLE WHILE YOU WERE KITEBOARDING? WHAT HAPPENED, AND HOW DID YOU MANAGE THE SITUATION? ANY ADVICE YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE OUR READERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING IN THAT SITUATION?

Respect the weather, respect your gear, and always release the safety first! I had a few close calls in the past that I'd rather not relive!

I recorded a YouTube video about dangerous kiteboarding situations and how to avoid them. If you have any more questions about safety, head to my YouTube channel and check it out.

If you weren't a professional kiteboarder, what would you be doing instead?

I'm actually not sure, that thought never even crossed my mind!

PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



" I AM SHARING HELPFUL TIPS FOR KITEBOARDERS AND SHARING MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES "

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2019, DO YOU HAVE ANY PROJECTS, KITE CAMPS OR TRIPS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

I'm mainly focusing on the KPL this summer and then later this year, I will be running the 4th Queen of Hel event in Poland, as well as park specific event FLYN Bay Bash. I am also working on growing my YouTube channel, where I am sharing helpful tips for kiteboarders and sharing my previous experiences - If you have time, check it out!

THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME KAROLINA AND BEST OF LUCK FOR THE COMING SEASON!

Thank you for having me, Jen :)



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TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Feeling excited about this issue of technique. We've got three deliciously achievable moves and Karine is finally back in the saddle. First up we have a variation on a very common theme with the Air Gybe or Jump Transition from Toe Side. As well as something different this is a great foundation move for all things toe side, so get involved. For Karine's return, she's delighted to take you through the strapless Heel to Toe Duck Tack. A move perhaps more associated with foiling, but very deserving of some surfboard love. And wrapping things up we guide you through the straight hand wash, or hand drag, depending on your preference. You'll have seen many photos of riders waving their boards in front of the lens whilst whipping up a storm with their trailing hand. Well now it's your turn. Hope you enjoy the moves. Take care C&K.

If you'd like coaching on these moves, or any of the moves featured in IKSURFMAG, Christian and Karine's next clinic with places available - Brazil 16th to 30th November 2019

For upcoming 2020 CKPerformance clinic dates please visit - <http://www.ckperformanceclinics.co.uk>

AIR GYBE FROM TOE SIDE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

STRAPLESS HEEL TO TOE SIDE DUCK TACK



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HAND WASH



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AIR GYBE FROM TOE SIDE >

Here's a little something for everyone, an achievable mix and match, adding a little twist to your standard transition, at least on one side. The air gybe or jump transition from toe side is both a funky move in its own right, but also seriously good practice for pretty much anything from toe side. As it requires a good solid controlled toeside edge, kite control with both hands and some hefty drive against the board. This will stand you in good stead for a box full of other tricks from your toes.

Most of us probably learnt to jump from heelside before we ventured on towards the air gybe.

However, it would be a pretty safe bet to say that the majority of you haven't jumped from toe side, but will be keen to learn this air gybe from toeside. Thus, the fundamentals of edge and send need to be learnt so that we can polish and succeed. Let's have a look....

The Approach Pic A.

First things first. As you plan to send it from toeside, getting yourself comfortable and settled before piling into the move is a must. You need to make sure that you're not going Mach 10, this is a transition, so you want to go in slow. Therefore relax, make sure that you've trimmed the sweet spot close enough so that you can use both hands without having to pull the bar in and stall the kite. Stand tall as this will shift your weight back, sink the tail slightly and slow you down. It's better that you save your energy for the short burst prior to and during take-off. You can see that



Christian is committed to toe side, he has his kite at 11 o'clock and bar within reach.

Edge and Send Pic B.

This really is the crux of the move. You need to be able to send the kite with enough meaning so that it'll give you sufficient air, and you need to resist well so that you get picked up rather than swung around like a wrecking ball. Get this right and once you're up there everything will become reassuringly familiar. This is why you need to relax first, because once you decide to send, it's game on. Just like an air gybe from heelside you must give a short sharp send, so that the kite moves quickly, but doesn't travel too far back. As you do this, drop your weight upwind, forcing your hips away from the board whilst dropping your shoulder, so that you can really drive against the



edge of the board as the kite pulls. Here Christian is pushing the board away from him, whilst steering the kite up to 12. Note how Christian is looking down over his front shoulder to keep his weight low.

Kick for Take Off Pic C.

Again, just as per normal for an air gybe it's good and helpful practice to add a wee kick for take-off. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, by kicking you can get yourself going up early and therefore prevent the kite from traveling too far behind. Secondly and more relevantly to the toe side take off, it will help you resist and stop you being pulled back onto the back leg, which will then soften, collapse and ultimately kill your chances. As such once you send the kite and edge like a loony, you only wait until the kite starts to lift, hopefully around 12 o'clock,



and then pre-empt your take off with a hefty stamp off the back leg. As soon as you kick, it's time to steady the kite, so as well as giving the bar a gentle pull to help the up, remember to level it to stop the kite moving any further back. Looking at the photo, Christian has kicked off his back foot, fully extending his back leg in the process and has the bar levelled.

Big Chill Pic D.

From here on you should be in known territory. Keep the bar on the sweet spot and level so that the kite stays above you. Bring your knees up so that the board will end up in front of you as you're accustomed to and then just

wait in the big chill position, eyes still looking forwards. You can see Christian is bringing his knees up, the bar is in and level, the kite is above him and he's still looking forwards. Try keeping this position until you start to descend. If you look back, you'll likely drift the kite behind you, so be patient.

The Drop Pic E.

Once you're coming down it's time to think about the landing. You'll want to give the kite a very aggressive dive to counteract any penduluming you may have due to a less solid edge on your toe side take off. The kite should be diving down at the water,



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not drifting along the edge of the window. Also think which way you want to land. It's downwind, so look that way, not back in the other direction. Here Christian has started to dive the kite hard as he has swung out from under the kite slightly. He's looking downwind as he knows that is where the pull will come from.

DWL Pic F.

The final ingredient – Down Wind Landing. This is so much easier if you've given the kite a hefty dive, as the pull will help you. However, even if you've been a bit timid with the kite, at least if you land with the



board facing downwind and flat you will still keep going, rather than the breaking effect of your edge. Christian has twisted his hips and board so that he's on course for a soft touch down, he's looking downwind which enables him to position everything accordingly.

TOP TIPS

Kite Position. Don't start with the kite too low, as you'll struggle to hold your edge long enough. Start with the kite at that magical point where it's relatively high but you can still just edge against it.

Trim accordingly. If your sweet spot is too far away



you will stall the kite as you send it, which will then pull you off your edge. So make sure that the bar is reachable, but you've still got some gas available.

Now time to visualise with the videos and sequence...

COMMON PROBLEMS

Nothing happens. If you find that you don't lift off, it's more often the result of having the sweet spot too close, or not having enough power. However, it's also possible that if you're being overpowered by the kite, you're forced to let the bar out as the kite rises and as such you lose all power. Check your trim and make sure your edge is set as best you can.



The dreaded Pendulum. If you end up swinging out from under your kite like a harmonic oscillator under a Grandfather clock. Yet again there are a few possible reasons for this. If you kick up too early, before the kite has reached 12, but don't level the bar you'll be gifted one hefty swing, so kick later. However, if you yank the bar in way past the sweet spot this could also happen. Most likely is that you're losing your edge, whether the kite be stalling, you're

sending too hard, or you're just not edging hard enough. Concentrate on your sweet spot, use both hands to send the kite and edge as if you've got money on it.

KEYSTONES

1. Kite just low enough to edge
2. Short sharp send, drop low and drive
3. Kick off before kite goes past 12

4. Level and keep looking forwards
5. Aggressive dive and DWL





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STRAPLESS HEEL TO TOE SIDE DUCK TACK >

We've covered this on a twinnie, now it's time for the surfboard challenge and at a later date the foiling version will be explained. Regardless of craft this is a fun move, which looks brilliant, feels brilliant and let's be honest, is brilliant. Perfecting this strapless is admittedly a fraction more tricky than on a twin tip with straps, but the good news is that your favoured surfboard will carve up through the wind better, so that should even out the score somewhat. As an added bonus, if you are foiling, getting this dialled on the surfboard first will certainly demystify some of the movements.

We'd say that the only real prerequisite for this is the Tack. Reason being that your carve is essential, so without a decent thrust up through the wind you'll be struggling before you even get there. Time for a look at what will make this achievable....

Approach Pic A.

If you're a tacker you should have this part in the bag. However, a little refresher never goes amiss. You'll need some momentum so that you can carve up, and as such you should be coming in on a good edge, on an upwind course, so that you have some speed but also lots of control. Your heels should be biased towards the heelside of the board, so that you can sit on them to engage the rail when you carve, and your back foot doesn't want to be too far back, otherwise you may struggle to move your weight forwards when



necessary. Your hands centred so that you won't move the kite too aggressively. From this position you need to drift the kite very slowly up to 12 o'clock whilst releasing the bar so that you are able to carve up wind and are not pulled up onto the board. You can see that Karine is approaching, on an edge and not too fast, her feet are close to the upwind rail of the board and from this position she steers the kite up, lets out the bar and initiates her carve.

Carve Pic B.

Once again, the carve should be similar to that of a Tack. The only difference is that you want to get the board further round, through the eye of the wind. This means sitting your weight onto your heels and driving the board up into the wind, breaking at the waist to keep weight on the board and leaving the bar out, with the kite stationary at around 12 o'clock. What



What happens next is the new bit. If we look at Karine we can see what you need to add. As the nose of her board approaches the eye of the wind, she will start to lose support from the kite and her upper body is "falling" towards the water. To stop this and enable her to keep carving (which you'll see clearly in the slow motion video) she pulls in on the bar for support which enables her to carve the board a bit further. One last movement to note is that Karine is looking at the board, towards her front foot. Do this to prevent yourself from twisting your upper body, which would then stop you carving with your legs.

Cirque de Soleil Pic C.

OK, this is the bit where it looks like you need to have been some form of gymnast or acrobat, with bendy ligaments and supple joints who always won the holiday limbo competition on animation night.



Despair ye not. This may appear contortionistic, but it's not. Once again, the video highlights this movement well. With the nose of the board through the wind, you'll find yourself hanging from your bar, which if level will support you, but not for long. What you need to do is get your weight and centre of gravity over the board and onto your feet. Up until now you've been pushing against the board, now it's time to relax. Stop pushing and let your knees go soft so that your hips can roll over and above the board. With your hips over the board, you can actually put weight back down onto your feet. In the photo Karine has the bar pulled all the way in, whilst

keeping it level. She stopped pushing, collapsed her knees and allowed her hips to swing over the board. This will give you a few more nanoseconds.

The Twist Pic D.

As soon as you've got weight onto your feet it's time to move your weight forwards towards the nose of the board, as this will help get your body back where it belongs. The movement here is twisting your shoulders round towards the new direction. Imagine that you want to roll around so that you can lean onto the bar. Whilst twisting your shoulders you can push your hips forwards off the back foot. Karine has the bar in,

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she's twisting her shoulders aggressively around to try and face in the new direction, leading with her hands and bar, and she's pushing her hips forwards off her back foot and over her front foot. Note that her feet have not moved!

Power Up Pic E.

With a push and twist you should end up balancing over the board. This is not a pose to keep, you need to complete the tack and return to a normal riding position! The requirement now is to get the kite moving, so dive it with meaning. You'll also need to anticipate the pull, so make sure that you flex your



ankles, bend your knees and get your weight upwind of the board, onto your toes. Here Karine is diving the kite, and just as importantly her weight is on the balls of her feet.

Claim It Pic F.

As the power comes on, the fins should do their job and pivot the nose of the board off the wind and towards the kite, so that you'll be moving again and ready to ride off into the sunset feeling rather pleased with yourself. The only precaution, as you can witness in the photo, is that your feet, just as Karine's, will not be in the optimum place for a strong toeside edge.



They'll still be on what was the upwind rail, so you'll need to shuffle them across slightly for a better toe side;)

TOP TIPS

To make things easier, you'll want to be comfortable. If you're underpowered you will struggle to carve and search in vain for support. If you're stacked, you'll be pulled all over the shop, also struggle to carve and fight to get your weight forwards with the twist at the end. And it goes without saying that the choppier it is the harder this will be as your board will slow quicker.



One final thought before playing through the videos and looking at the sequence. This should be a flowing series of movements. We have broken them down, but each segment should smoothly lead to the next. Any staccato and you'll be in.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Assuming that you get the carve, there is one problem that often rears its head. Getting pulled off the board as you look for support. Nine times out of ten this will be because the kite drifted too far back into the other side of the wind window as you carved. Which means that when you pull on the bar, rather than the kite holding you up, it pulls you towards it, which is off the back of the board. So, make sure that you get the kite positioned early, just before you carve.

KEYSTONES

1. Come in on an edge
2. Kite up and bar out
3. Carve through the wind
4. Roll back over board
5. Twist, push forwards and dive



HAND WASH >

Oddly enough it's possible that you already know how to back roll hand wash, maybe even front roll hand wash, but chances are you've not even considered a simple, no frills approach to the cleanest of moves. This seems to be a popular photo choice at the moment, and as there's nothing more in than being en mode, lets get this party started.

Great news is that you don't need any hand washing experience to drag out one of these. A modicum of kite control and you're there. The real beauty of the hand wash per say is that compared to the more traditional transition attempts that often end in a kite loop, you are actually washing your back hand. This means no startling power if you get it wrong, just a gentle dunking. So what is it? The hand wash is a support move, which requires you to drop your back hand off the bar whilst sailing along, so that you can stroke the water, whilst simultaneously rocking your board up in front of you, resulting in a moment of pure showman/womanship as you casually cruise along on your hand before gently placing the board back down. Sounds easy enough....

Approach Pic A.

As for all support moves there are two absolute necessities here, lift in the kite and tension on the lines. Admittedly with tension you'll have some lift, but trying to learn this in subpar conditions when you're a tad under will make life unnecessarily hard. Now assuming that you have plenty of beans in the



kite, make sure you have a good solid upwind edge to put plenty of tension in your lines. This way you'll be able to feel the kite and know when it's time to go. Whilst on your edge with your kite at either 1 or 11 o'clock move your hips back. This will lower your bum and place you nearer to the water. With your posterior close to the drink, you'll need to break at the waist to keep your bar on the sweet spot, which you'll want relatively far away. Hence the need for power. In the photo you can see that Christian has his weight low, his hips back on the board, back leg quite bent, but still with a good edge and he's cranking upwind. One last tip, which you can't quite see yet, is that Christian has his front hand centred on the bar. If you can split your two fingers around the centre line, otherwise butt your front hand right up against it.

**The Drift Pic B.**

The aim with the kite is to get it back past 12 o'clock so that it will help you lift the board, help lift you and give you time to drag and wash your hand before it moves forwards again. The amount of lift, and time you have with lift, will depend on how powered you are, kite size and subtlety of kite movements. If you move the kite with enthusiasm, then it'll lift you as per a jump. If you move it with extra caution, you'll have no lift. Somewhere in between, a fast drifting action, or a slow send, which gets the kite moving without generating heaps of power is the goal. Whilst drifting the kite back concentrate on keeping your edge. You'll also need to feather the bar out, maintaining tension but controlling lift. Once the kite is moving, release your back hand in anticipation of the wash.



Here Christian has drifted the kite back, steering with both hands before releasing his back hand. You can see that he's pushed the bar out to counter the lift from the kite as it drifts over the top but he's still edging hard.

The Hand Pic C.

Now that the kite is sorted, it's time to prepare for the wash. Three things to dial this in, your back hand, shoulders and head. You want to reach back with your hand, whilst leaning your shoulders back towards the tail of the board and focusing your eyes there, tilting your head towards your back shoulder as if you were emptying water out of your trailing ear.

Christian is leaning his shoulders back, arm extended behind him and he's looking at the tail of his board. As he does this he's still bent at the waist, but he's pulled the bar back in to stop the kite moving any further back, just past 12 is fine...

The Board Pic D.

As soon as you stop the kite from travelling any further back it's all about getting the board up off the water. The wonderful thing here is that as long as you get the drift right and hold your edge it's really not that hard as the kite is actually helping you. With the kite back past 12 o'clock, all you need to do is pull a



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D



little on the bar for some support, and bring your knees up to raise the board off the water. With the kite behind you, it effectively pulls you back slightly! Just to throw a spanner in the works you will need to multi task somewhat as you still need to get the hand down into the water. Do this by reaching back and down, allowing your head and shoulders to roll even further down towards the water. If you compare this photo with the previous one you can see that the only difference is that Christian has really rolled his shoulders so that they're almost perpendicular to the water, and he's lifted his knees up to bring the board off the water.

E



Rock It Pic E.

From now on the move actually helps itself. As long as you try to keep your hand down near the water, dragging it and washing it to your heart's content, this will continue to roll your shoulders back further. With your harness hook acting as the fulcrum point, this will rock your board up in front of you. The only tricky bit is that you need to be sensitive to the bar. You need to keep enough power on to hold you up and lift you back, but too much and your caressing hand will be lifted clear off the water, whilst too little and you'll already be dropping your hips back down, which will mean that contact with water is imminent.

F



Here Christian's board and shoulders are perpendicular to the water, pointing skywards, the kite having pulled him back into this position, no strength or core work required:) From here on your hand should be dragging in the water, with a plume of spray following you like a demented Marlin.

The Tweak Pic F.

Now for the money shot! As you get comfortable with the kite movement and getting some decent wash action, it's time to get the board a bit higher and invert yourself a tad more. The mechanics are all the same, you just need to be more dynamic and



G aggressive with rocking yourself back with your head and shoulders. As long as the kite is supporting you, the harder you roll your head and shoulders, the higher the board will go. Once it's up there you'll need to keep the bar in for maximum effect and the full eco cycle. You can see in the picture that Christian has the bar pulled in to the sweet spot, but he's not pulling on one side and therefore not steering the kite forwards. The more inverted you go, the easier it is to pull the bar down and in without overly steering the kite – win, win.

Stomp It Pic G.

Like all good things, your hand wash must come to an end. Even if you keep the bar in, and the kite moves leisurely forwards, at some point you'll feel the lift going and the gravity defying weightlessness disappearing. This is your queue to get your feet back down and add some oomph into the kite so that you can kite away with a grin rather than sink unceremoniously into the sea. As you feel yourself lowering, pull hard on the front hand to steer the kite forwards, so that it can pull you out. As it goes overhead, raise your own head and look forwards, pulling in on the bar for support. Before you know it, you'll be fulcruming back the other way, head and shoulders rolling up, whilst your board rocks down. As long as the kite is diving it'll pull you, and as long as you get the board's tail down, you'll stomp it. From behind you don't see a great deal due to the desirable hand spray, but the image from in front shows how Christian is pulling in on the bar, lifting his head and dropping the tail of the board back onto the water. Keep your knees bent though, as you won't have much space to place the board down.



TOP TIPS

If you can, use a larger kite. It will give you more lift and more time to think. Even if you're powered, learning this on a 7m will be a tad more challenging, though not impossible.

Flat water will make it much easier to hold your speed coming into this whilst edging hard. Not a must but a welcome helping hand.

As with all moves, concentrate on the separate parts, not the claim. If you can learn to have the kite right and get the hand washing, the rest will come soon enough.

Now have a scan through the sequence and a look at the videos for the complete A – Z!

COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're getting off the water but your hand isn't wet! Two possible reasons. Firstly, you could be moving the kite back too quickly and therefore you're doing a mini jump. Try drifting the kite a tad slower. It could also be due to the fact that you're not letting the bar out as you drift the kite, so remember to feather the bar out so that the kite doesn't lift you until you choose.

You're dragging and washing but you can't sail away. This is likely caused by the fact that you're too low to the water, so try to keep the bar in on the sweet spot as you rock and roll in the wash. Also remember that you need to pull on the front hand to exit as soon as you feel the lift going.

KEYSTONES

1. Solid edge, weight back
2. Drift kite, stay low
3. Reach Back, roll head and shoulders
4. Bar in and rock board up
5. Pull in front hand and drop tail





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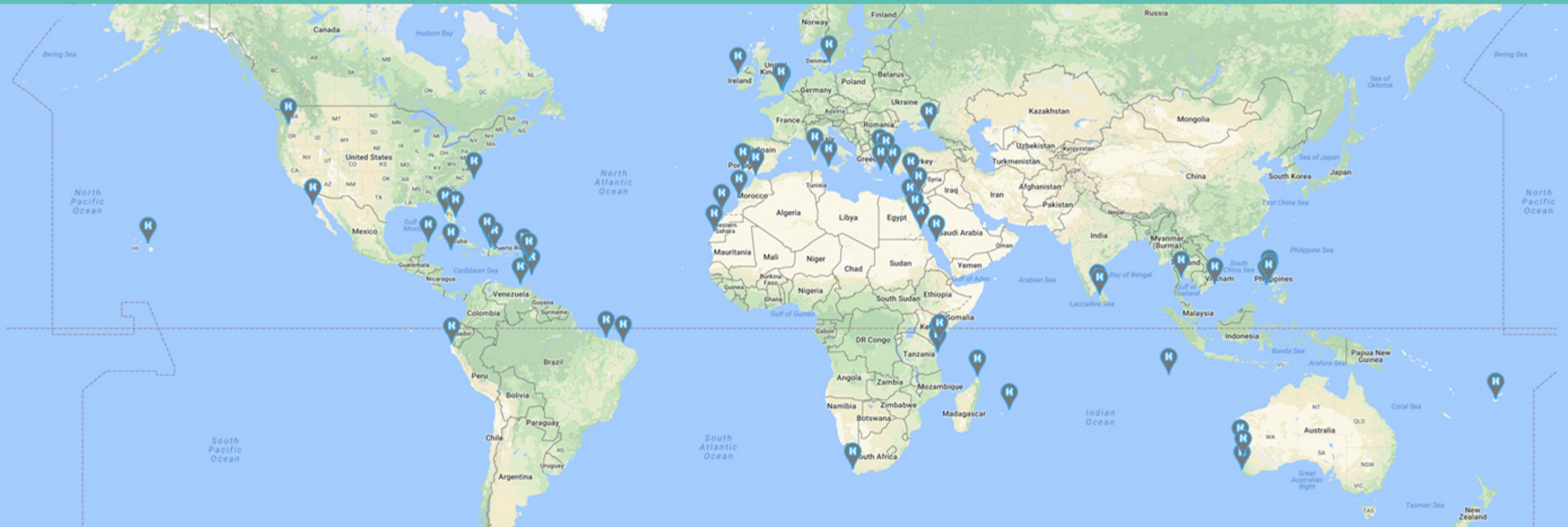
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It's getting to that time of year when we start to see the first kites and boards of 2020!
Sounds crazy but it's true... Lots of kites and boards on test this issue, enjoy!

- KITES**
Airush Union V4
Duotone Neo
Flysurfer Stoke V2
Naish Boxer
Ocean Rodeo Razor
Ozone Hyperlink V2

- BOARDS**
Airush Apex V5
Core Bolt 3
F-One Trax ESL
Ozone Base V1

TRIED & TESTED

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
PHOTO THIS PAGE FLYSURFER

BRAND AIRUSH MODEL UNION V4 SIZE 12M YEAR 2019



“ ALL-ROUND
FREESTYLE
PERFORMANCE,
BUILD QUALITY
AND
CONSCIENCE. ”



AT A GLANCE

The Union from Airush made a huge impression when it first appeared a few years ago, and the 4th version of the popular kite is no less impressive, and we predict will be no less popular. A 3 strut all-round kite, it has been designed as the first and last kite you should ever need for the weekend warrior and beyond.

New for 2019, the Union benefits from a fixed bridle for a more direct crisp feel, a new wing tip shape that abates stall, and an overhaul to the profile, which has created a more forward flying kite.

The Airush load frame V4 is in play, which is visible on the kite creating a spiders web design. This frame holds the kites shape no matter the direction of force being applied and allows the heavier Dacron material often seen on kites, to be decreased resulting in an all-round lighter kite which in turn results in a better low end and lighter feel. The main canopy of the kite uses Teijin Tecnoforce D2, and as we would expect on a kite of this calibre there are Kevlar reinforcements, bumper pads, XL inflate/deflate valve and a high-quality one-pump system.

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WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



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BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL NEO

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2019



" ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE WAVE KITES ON THE MARKET! "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

The Duotone Neo needs no introduction, but I'll give it one anyway, this kite has been at the forefront of wave kite design for a long time. It's won countless events and titles and is the weapon of choice for all the Duotone wave team. Think Airton Cozzolino, Matchu Lopez, Sebastian Ribeiro and Patri McLaughlin. It's perfect for slaying down the line One Eye, yet can handle being thrown around in Euro onshore conditions too. Let's not forget it's strapless freestyle credentials either!

If you want a pure wave kite, the Neo is the choice from Duotone, built with their near legendary construction techniques in Sri Lanka. It is tough enough to survive a bomb or two, yet it can still float like a ninja and sting like a bee when you want it to.

Using the Trinity TX canopy material ensures the kite has a long life and there are plenty of reinforcements on the kite elsewhere too. The bridle is fully tuneable to offer different feelings at the bar and also to tweak the characteristics of the kite. You can set it up for pure wave riding mode, or a more freeride orientated feel which offers good boost for big jumps.

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BRAND FLYSURFER

MODEL STOKE V2

SIZE 8M

YEAR 2019



" A GREAT RIDING EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH WAVES AND FREESTYLE. "



AT A GLANCE

Flysurfer have undergone a makeover, and the resulting look is clean and fresh. We were excited to get our hands on the new Stoke; Flysurfer's all-round wave and freestyle tube kite - right in time for the 2019 season!

The Stoke is a three strut mid aspect kite, with a new compact bridle system and tweaked profile. The construction quality has increased, and the finish matches this. The new High Load Force Frame is made using high strength; low wear fibres that have huge resistance against the highest of stresses going through the canopy, producing a smoother airflow which, in turn, improves flight stability.

Flysurfer use the highly regarded Teijin D2 double ripstop and interestingly use the same on their paragliders stating there is simply no need for the additional yarns to be included. The leading edge and struts use high-quality Dacron, which has been cut down to use only the minimum amount to reduce unwanted weight.

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BRAND NAISH MODEL BOXER SIZE 10M YEAR 2020



“ YOU COULD FLY THIS KITE ALL DAY AND NOT GET TIRED ”



AT A GLANCE

The new Boxer from Naish is a big statement from the brand in the one strut kite market. Damien Girardin has been working on this design for several years now, if you remember the no-strut Trip kite which was incredibly light and perfect for travelling the Boxer now fills that brief and then some.

By using a single strut, the kite can quickly be relaunched if you crash it and the wind range and stability is improved over too. The ace up the Boxer's sleeve is the Quad Tex material, which makes the canopy of the kite incredible stiff and stable. This should mean flutter is reduced when the kite is flown overpowered.

As usual, you get the incredible Naish build quality and a host of features such as a large inflate valve and the Octopus system to make getting on the water fast. Overall for this year, the kite has been made lighter with a new streamlined construction. A tapered leading edge helps the kite to fly more efficiently while also reducing weight.

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BRAND OCEAN RODEO

MODEL RAZOR

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2019



"EFFORTLESS
BOOSTING
ABILITY"



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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

Canadian kite brand Ocean Rodeo have a full range of kites, and we have been riding their freestyle specific Razor. The Razor is designed for those more experienced riders who focus almost entirely on high-end freestyle and high-velocity loops.

The Razor is interestingly a four-strut kite, which is not something we have seen for a few years. It has a narrow C-shaped arc and is mid aspect ratio for the careful balance between lift and response. There is a short bridle system with 2 pulleys and a floating v design for connectivity and smooth response.

The kite itself has high-quality construction, with Teijin providing the Technoforce D2 ripstop for low wear and low stretch qualities, Dimension Polyant K-PE Dacron used for leading edges and struts, and Armortex Kevlar abrasion guards for added protection in the key contact points.

One pump and high capacity inflation valve come as standard, as to be expected in 2019, and the entire package comes with the excellent Sherpa bag,

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BRAND OZONE

MODEL HYPERLINK V2

YEAR 2020



" A VERY ENGAGING EXPERIENCE THAT WILL STICK A SMILE ON ANYONE'S FACE."



AT A GLANCE

Ozone have been the brand to watch of late, this dedicated small group of passionate riders have been pumping out incredible products for a long time. In recent years their innovation seems to have taken things up a notch or two. The Hyperlink is a case in point. Launched a couple of years ago, the kite aimed to bridge the gap between inflatable kites and foils.

When I first rode the Hyperlink V1 I was seriously impressed, this year the Hyperlink V2 is fresh to the shelves boasting an all-new double ripstop material that is lighter and features a new coating to help it shed water faster. The focus this year has been to improve the overall performance of the kite while maintaining that classic Hyperlink feel.

Billed as a genuinely versatile kite, it can be set up as a four-line Closed Cell kite or switched to a five-line Open Cell mode for riding on the snow. This second mode allows for easy landing and relaunch on the land and slightly faster inflation, it's an optional extra that is worth thinking about if you ride on hard stuff as well as the ocean.

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" A HIGH PERFORMING BOARD FOR HIGH PERFORMING RIDERS. "



BRAND AIRUSH
SIZE 135 X 41CM

MODEL APEX V5
YEAR 2019

AT A GLANCE

Airush have pumped out some lookers for the 2019 season, and the Apex V5 was the first we had the privilege of trying. A board designed for those of us who have a passion for both freestyle and big air freeride, and the experience to get the most out of it.

The Apex V5 has the classic Airush outline, with a relatively square shape, long rail lines, and a moderately flat rocker line. Added together,

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" WE LOVED THIS BOARD FOR ITS AGGRESSIVE PLAYFUL ATTITUDE. "



BRAND CORE
SIZE 139 X 32.5CM

MODEL BOLT 3
YEAR 2019

AT A GLANCE

CORE's Bolt 3 board is for that specific all out, balls to the wall, wakestyle rider who demands only the toughest and most performance-orientated board out there. A boots specific board, this is not a board you can grow into, nor can you grow out of; it is simply that good. Designed to be ridden with either the 48mm, 28mm fins, or indeed finless, it has masses of grip and a slip and slide nature to allow you to create your lines in whatever environment you are in.

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" A POCKET
ROCKET PACKED
WITH
PERFORMANCE
AND POP "



BRAND F-ONE
SIZE 133 X 38 CM

MODEL TRAX ESL GIRL
YEAR 2019

AT A GLANCE

Another women's only board from the F-ONE stable is the TRAX ESL Girl. Designed for riders who want an all-round board, this freeride board is all about having fun on the water, no matter your level or the conditions of the day.

The Trax ESL Girl features the same top spec as the higher performing boards in the lineup. The wood core has been designed for ultra-responsive properties with the flex increasing towards the tips for comfort and pop.

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" AN INCREDIBLY SMOOTH AND STABLE BOARD ON WHICH YOU WILL ONLY IMPROVE. "



BRAND OZONE
SIZE 137 X 41CM

MODEL BASE V1
YEAR 2019

AT A GLANCE

Ozone started their board factory last year, and since then have pumped out a five board line up which has caused quite a stir in the kitesurfing world. We got our hands on the Base V1 which is an entry to intermediate level freeride twin tip to suit those riders who are just out of lessons and their first few years after that.

Made to the same high standard as the other boards in the range, the Base V1 features an A grade Paulownia wood core, high-quality Biaxial and

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DO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WANT TO LEARN TO KITE?



WORDS LEWIS CRATHERN
PHOTOS JAVIER FLORIDO

THE HADLEW EXPERIENCE

When Ruben Lenten broke his leg kiting in Barcelona a little while ago it ruined his meticulously planned itinerary for the year. Worse though was he had a booked up week in Tarifa as part of his Len10 Experience where he entertains and coaches riders who want to live and ride a little like the master.



“ ALL THE BIG NAMES WERE THERE IN THE RIDERS DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING SOME FORMER WORLD CHAMPIONS THAT WANTED BACK IN ”

Step in good friends Aaron Hadlow and Lewis Crathern and suddenly the Hadlew Experience was born. Imagine thinking you are going to Tarifa with Ruben, only to find out you get double your fun with 5 x world champion and KOTA master Aaron and big air supremo Lewis. The big question is though, could they fill Rubens big shoes?

LEUCATE

I've been visiting Mondial du Vent since 2007, and love it. As usual, I expected a

routine trip down to the south of France and some good kiteboarding. If you have a motorhome, I highly recommend you visit this event one day. The campsites are top-class and are located right at the kiteboarding spot. The town itself is a vibrant place during the competition time, everything is easy to get to, and the locals extremely welcoming. As I set off in my van to commentate the first GKA Freestyle event of the year, the last thing I thought I would end up doing was a 6000 km round-trip, which featured a stop in Africa!

This was the first stop of the GKA Freestyle World Tour, and the first time I was part of this team. As I met with more of the

members of the crew, I was quick to realise that these were the same people that have been in and amongst the tour for quite a few years; a great move from the GKA in my opinion. All the same judges, Gemma Hamaini, who does so much for the tour, Jim Gaunt from Kiteworld was writing the press releases, Case Productions was providing the live stream, and so on.

All the big names were there in the riders department, including some former world champions that wanted back in from both the ladies and the men division. While we saw one of the biggest lagoons fill up (moon related) at the 2019 Mondial Du Vent, the wind was scarce, and after the competition was on-hold for four days, the decision was made to move the event fifteen minutes south, outside the town of Leucate.



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“ IT WAS GREAT TO SEE 'BIG AIR' NATURALLY MAKING ITS WAY INTO SOME OF THE HEATS DUE TO THE STRONG WIND. ”

What a decision that was! It was blasting 30 knots+ for two days, which made for a great event, and if you tuned into the live stream, you would not have even known that the whole infrastructure of the event had moved; it was impressive!

It was great to see 'Big Air' naturally making its way into some of the heats due to the strong wind. This is a hot topic right now on the GKA Freestyle, the inclusion of Big Air. Carlos Mario ended up making his way to the throne yet again, and in the ladies department, it was Francesca Bagnoli who claimed the top spot from Mikaili Sol.

I enjoy commentating the live stream. Craig Cunningham who is a teammate and my team manager, and has a very technical and has an accurate understanding of the heats added to the show and while I said my goodbyes he mentioned to me "Have you seen Ruben Lenten's crash video?"

Usually last to see what's going on in social media, (for reasons I won't go into) I finally saw the devastating Megaloop/release which had put him in a hospital just down the road in Barcelona.

PLAN TO TARIFA

At this point, my routine journey back from Leucate had started to change; I had received messages from some of Ruben's clients who had a Len10 Experience planned in Tarifa only a couple of days away. I then heard from Ruben, "Can you cover it? You got to be there soon!".





" WE KNOW THAT STRONG-WIND KITEBOARDING AND MEGALOOPS HAVE THEIR DANGERS. "

For me, these are the most exciting moments of my job. Sometimes the typical stereotype of a pro kiteboarder might be that they turn up to events, and hope to live off the prize money. In my opinion, and from my experience of hanging out with riders for over ten years that have made kiteboarding their job, this could not be further from the truth! Many skills are required to cut it, but one that is up there is logistics planning.

After searching every possible route on Skyscanner, it dawned on me that I would have to fly back to the UK without a break, and then rush to the airport to catch a flight to Tarifa. Another option presented itself - drive and deal with it! I am no stranger to long drives in my van and have driven to Tarifa on several occasions, but time was of the essence here.

Fast-forward a couple of hours and the logistics planning had accelerated Mach 10 to provide a great new adventure.

Aaron Hadlow was now in on the clinic; he would fly to Barcelona that evening where I would pick him up, visit Ruben for the evening, and then head off overnight down to Tarifa in Vanzee. Aaron is also a veteran in long drives. "Make sure you got the football", he tells me, which was a crucial factor in fighting off the boredom during petrol station breaks.

We know that strong-wind kiteboarding and Megaloops have their dangers. I know that first hand, but it was quite troubling to see Ruben with all sort of metal through his leg, being assisted in a wheelchair around by his wonderful wife, Nikki.



He copped a big one that's for sure and looked like he would be off the water for quite a while.

Those that have ever met Ruben, or know him well, will vouch for his positive attitude and even in the state he was in, he was happy. It's almost as if he is thankful for these life challenges, and arguably he has been through a lot more than most.

Ruben's instructions to us were simple. "Have a great time, do what you want and get some beers in!" Not the most challenging job description I have ever received but very important. It was a complete wake-up call to just be ourselves and have a great time.

" HAVE A GREAT TIME, DO WHAT YOU WANT AND GET SOME BEERS IN! "



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" FROM THAT SESSION ON, WE KNEW WE COULD TEACH THEM THE FUN STUFF, BIGGER BOOSTS, GRABBED ROLLS AND EVEN MEGA LOOPING. "

Top evening, nice dinner, Ruben will be fine, off we go - The Len10 Experience with HadLew had to get going!

TARIFA

Twenty-four hours later, and after a brief stop to pick up filmmaker, Joost Essenburg, we met the guys in Tarifa who we would be coaching. Three awesome lads from Italy, who were keen to get out there in the strong Levante wind that was forecasted! For the first session, and after many confrontations,

Aaron and I chose to ride with them at Valdevaqueros, which was cross-off 35 knots, and pretty extreme! We had been told they were at a good level, and what better place to find out than right here! They handled it superbly. From that session on, we knew we could teach them the fun stuff, bigger boosts, grabbed rolls and even mega looping.

We moved our next sessions to Balneario, the famous spot you see in kiteboarding videos just outside the main town. The wind is cleaner there, but you have to be careful during the summer months, as the spot is closed. As our trip was during spring, we enjoyed some great kiteboarding on the flat water with not too much traffic. It was always

blowing 30 knots and leant itself for 'Big Air'. Naturally, we could look at the Megaloop, and it made complete sense that the guys wanted to learn this; they were on a Len10 Experience, of course! In general, it is much safer to learn how to loop the kite on the way back down, but it became apparent that there was a demand to learn the full Megaloop. I couldn't believe we were coaching this, and even better, the group were getting it!

Ruben, Aaron and I share the same vision when coaching. We don't just want people to progress; we want to bring the best out of them, and for us, that involves sharing all of our secrets that we have learnt over many years. From grabbing the board stylishly, perfecting the Megaloop, setting up efficiently, and even how to ride around on the water in pairs professionally.

" I COULD SEE THE MOMENT IT ALL FELL INTO PLACE, AND I FOUND MYSELF JUMPING ON THE WATER CHEERING. "

It's a great pleasure to share as many tips as we can, and this went on long into the night over beers and great food.

One other value that you can attach to Ruben is that he knows how to do things properly. For this Len10 Experience, the guests were staying in an impressive villa and had arrived ready to give it everything for a great week.

AARON'S VIEW

"My time spent coaching is limited, in the past, I haven't often found extra time for it, but in the few experiences I have had, I enjoyed it. I like to make sure it is in the right circumstances with the right people, as I want to share that moment when something clicks on the water for the first time.

Progression is what drives me in the sport; I know the unbelievable feeling of landing a new trick, the feeling when all your hard work pays off, or only a small change in technique that makes the difference. That's what I love about coaching; gifting someone this experience and sharing that moment can almost be as good.

During this trip, and being a Len10 Experience of sorts, we worked on kite loops and Megaloops with guys, on the last day Tommy went from unable to land a down loop transition to perfect timing and control in a kite loop. I could see the moment it all fell into place, and I found myself jumping on the water cheering." – Aaron Hadlow





“SOMETIMES IN LIFE, YOU NEED TO STRIP THINGS BACK DOWN TO THE BASICS ”

Between us, Aaron and I must have visited Tarifa over 20 times. It is a fun place where kiteboarding has taken over. You will read countless magazine articles for reasons why you have to visit, but for me, it is the way of life there that wins.

Finishing your session at 9:00 PM, you are in no rush! There is time to go home, have a shower, even asleep and then head back out on the town for dinner at 11:00 or 12:00 PM, before moving onto the many bars and clubs. It is refreshing to live like this if you are from a country where last orders for dinner are at 8:45 PM, even in the middle of summer! Tarifa always stays open as I was reminded during the Saturday night of the clinic - coincidentally my birthday!

During one of our final sessions together, Aaron shared his photo-shoot skills with the group, and we got some real bangers from the guys. Worthy of pages in magazines!

On the last day away from home and after we had said our goodbyes, I decided I had to take the van to Morocco for the afternoon. It's just a crime if you are that far from home not to say you drove in Africa.

Sometimes in life, you need to strip things back down to the basics, to your absolute pure passions. Being on the road, following the wind and sharing the love for the sport are essential values embedded deep within every kiteboarder. It felt so good to be back at one of the worlds top kiteboarding spots and during a strong Levante forecast where everyone progressed well. Thanks, Ruben for the opportunity, Aaron for joining, Tommy, Inti, Michelangelo, and Joost for filming. Look at our faces - That's #TrueKiteboarding.

10 QUESTIONS

WORDS JEN TYLER

AURÉLIEN PÉTREAU

Aurélien Pétreau shares his incredible journey, overcoming physical and mental challenges that lead to his 4th place victory at this year's Red Bull King of the Air. We got the chance to get to know Aurélien a little better, and find out how it all began and what he has in store for 2020!



" BIG AIR COMBINES TWO ESSENTIAL PASSIONS OF MINE; ADRENALINE AND FREEDOM "



PHOTO DANAS DANULIS

Aurélien, it's a pleasure to catch up with you! Could you tell us how old you were and how you go into kiteboarding, specifically 'Big Air'?

I started kiteboarding in 2001 when I was 18 years old in Brittany, France. Back then, we learned on 2-line kites, with the safety leash on the handle, and a large directional board. Soon enough, I got into jumping and old school, and it was from then on that I started orientating myself towards Big Air.

What is the kiteboarding scene like at your home spot?

We've got some beautiful flat water and wave spots around Brittany, but unfortunately, the wind is not strong enough for 'Big Air'. I tend to travel to Brazil, Sri Lanka, Greece and South Africa, searching for stronger winds!

What is it about Big Air that attracts you the most? Are there other disciplines in kiteboarding that you equally enjoy?

Big Air combines two essential passions of mine; adrenaline and freedom, and that's why it's such an addiction for me. For the past two months, I have

been practising a little strapless freestyle, to be able to have some fun in lighter wind conditions.

Last year was pretty rough for you, but you bounced back, stronger than ever. Can you share with us the nature of your knee injury, how it happened, and what rehabilitation you did to get ready for this year's King of the Air?

Yes, it was pretty hectic! In February 2018, I started doing my first Megaloop Double Late Back Rolls. While I was training, I was halfway through my 2nd rotation when my kite hit the water,



PHOTO DAVID LONG

and I landed aggressively on my leg. It hurt, but of course, I ignored it and continued my session regardless. A few more Megaloop Double Late Back Roll attempts later, I realised that my knee had started to swell terribly, and something wasn't right! After a few tests, I found out that I had torn my ACL and that surgery was necessary. I had my surgery booked in at the end of March, and by the end of April, I had started rehabilitation. By the end of May, I had already started running, and by mid-July, I was back on the water kiteboarding!

“ I REALISED THAT MY KNEE HAD STARTED TO SWELL TERRIBLY, AND SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT! ”

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" I FELT UTTERLY SERENE! I HAD WORKED SO HARD TO GET TO WHERE I WAS AT THIS POINT, AND HERE I WAS, UP AGAINST A LEGEND "

PHOTO BO VAN WYK

Since November, I've been intensively training and strengthening myself to be able to endure these brutal crashes we sometimes take while kiteboarding, and hopefully try to prevent more future injuries!

We were all on the edge of our seats watching the semifinals between you and Kevin Langeree! What thoughts were going through your head during the heat?

I felt utterly serene! I had worked so hard to get to where I was at this point, and here I was, up against a legend, which has been on the podium for about fifteen years; I was where I wanted to be! All the conditions were lined up perfectly, although the wind wasn't as strong as I'd hoped it to be (between 20-25 knots) I did the best I could do. I even attempted my first Megaloop Triple Late Back during that heat, but I didn't manage to land it, unfortunately!

You're a team rider for F-ONE Kiteboarding, what is your go-to set up? How have your sponsors helped you achieve your goals to become a professional kiteboarder?

For Big Air, my weapon of choice would be the Bandit. It is incredibly versatile, and a beast when it comes to hangtime, lift and looping, and the WTF?! board, which is the best in edging when you ride overpowered.

F-ONE is more than just a sponsor me; it's family! They also listen carefully to the rider's requests and remarks when it comes to developing new equipment.

In your opinion, how do non-kiteboarding related sponsors benefit professional kiteboarders?

As a pro rider, if a kiteboarding brand solely sponsors you, you are dependent on them and become the product of the brand. In my opinion, you should never put all your eggs in one basket!

10





PHOTO DAVID LONG

You are better off having a kiteboarding sponsor to provide you with equipment, and a non-kiteboarding sponsor to financially sponsor you.

Professional kiteboarders need to prepare themselves for the future. Once you are done riding professionally, you need to have a diverse network of people in different industries, as opposed to only kiteboarding, where you spend your days posting photos and videos on social media; you are a sales representative for the brand.

“ PROFESSIONAL KITEBOARDERS NEED TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE FUTURE. ”

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PHOTO: FRANKIE BEES

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" I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EVENT JUDGED SOLELY ON 'BIG AIR', REGARDLESS OF THE CONDITIONS "



Besides kiteboarding, what are your other passions? How would you spend your day if you weren't at the beach?

When I'm not kiteboarding, I'm working as a real estate investor. Besides that, I enjoy hanging out with friends and partying!

Who are your most inspirational kiteboarders, both male and female?

All of the male riders at 'King of The Air' are a real source of inspiration for me, and as for the female riders, I'd have to say Angély Bouillot!

We'll be seeing you at the 2020 King of the Air event, what changes would you like to see in future 'Big Air' events?

I would love to see more 'Big Air' events (similar to KOTA) but at different locations like Brazil, Sri Lanka and Oman. I would like to see the event judged solely on 'Big Air', regardless of the conditions.

Where will you be spending this summer and do you have any exciting plans that would you like to share with us?

In a few weeks, I'll be heading to Sri Lanka to explore a new spot called Mannar (rumour has it that it offers 5-10 more knots more than in Kalpitia!) and then, I'll go to Naxos, Greece for the rest of the summer.

Thank you, Aurélien! It's been a pleasure and we look forward to seeing you at KOTA next year!



Lightroom

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



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

EVAN NETSCH GETTING THAT KITE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE
IN AN UNKNOWN LAGOON NEAR PARACURU, BRAZIL
PHOTO NIK GANDERTON

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

WITH TOM SEAGAR ON THE WATER AND GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO BEHIND THE LENS,
THESE GUYS HAD A BLAST IN SICILY



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

OLLY BRIDGE ENJOYING A 12M SOUL SESSION IN CAPE TOWN
PHOTO ALEX SCHWARZ



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MOONA WHYTE FEELING RIGHT AT HOME WHILE VISITING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
PHOTO DAMEA DORSEY

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

CARLA HERRERA IN HER ELEMENT IN TARIFA
PHOTO SERGIO MURILLO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

RUBEN LENTEN DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST IN SOUTH AFRICA
PHOTO YDWER



Lightroom



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

WILLOW-RIVER TONKINS HIT THE JACKPOT WITH THIS ONE IN MAURITIUS!
PHOTO THOMAS BURBLIES

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LIGHTROOM

LUKE MCGILLIWIE WORKING ON HIS SELFIE SKILLS AT ONE EYE IN MAURITIUS
PHOTO GOPRO

Lightroom

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LIGHTROOM

RODERICK PIJLS ENJOYING THE PLAYGROUND ALL TO HIMSELF AT BLAUWBERG BEACH, SOUTH AFRICA
PHOTO REIN RIJKE – ZOUT PHOTOGRAPHY



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

JUST CAUSE YOU ARE STRAPLESS DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T SEND IT! LUKE MCGILLIWIE THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND IN CAPE TOWN!
PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS



Lightroom

Usually, luxury catamaran trips are the preserves of the Caribbean or some remote atoll in the Pacific that takes about a week to get to. Increasingly we are seeing more of these types of trips closer to our European home, and when a boat trip in Greece can look this good, it's hard not to consider getting the credit card out! Manuela Jungo went to explore the Cyclades in Greece just a short flight but a whole world away from her home in Switzerland!



WORDS MANUELA JUNGO
PHOTOS GIULIO STAGI /
THE ACTION CRUISE

PARADISE, CLOSER TO HOME



I boarded the plane from Zurich, Switzerland, and within two and a half hours, I was already in Athens, Greece. Once all our kiteboarding gear was aboard the 'Action Cruise's' 47ft Nautitech catamaran. We settled into our cosy cabins and were introduced to the other seven guests aboard, alongside Fede, who would be our captain on the journey, and Giulio, the chef. Everyone was excited, and sleep was hard to come by that night, the following morning, the adventure was due to begin.

“ IT IS THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF WILDERNESS AND LOCAL DISCOVERY WITH PLENTY OF WIND, THANKS TO THE STRONG LOCAL MELTEMI ”

I had been on a catamaran trip a few years back, and I remember I had made the brutal mistake of eating a sandwich as we left the harbour. Moments later, the seasickness hit me; you get the picture! This time, I was better prepared! I had my breakfast before we left, and made my way to the top deck to wave the beautiful city of Athens goodbye.

Over six thousand islands populate Greece, and most of them are untouched and only reachable by boat. High cliffs dive into the deep blue sea while little village's rise on the rocks and wait to be discovered. It is the perfect combination of wilderness and local discovery with plenty of wind, thanks to the strong local Meltemi, which turns Greece also into kiteboarding heaven during the summer months.

I was excited to share my passion and enthusiasm for exploring, kiting, sailing and adventure with the rest of the guests. Being confined to a relatively small space, with people you barely know for ten days sounds challenging, but when you share the same interests and goals, it's hard not to get along!





“ WE WERE ALONE MOST OF THE TIME AND THE CONDITIONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY BETTER. ”

There is a unique bond created through exploring different kite spots, discovering villages, cliff diving, island hopping, and snorkelling in the piercing blue water.

The first day went as planned, mostly sailing, which was an excellent opportunity to get to know the other guests and to relax.

We were all a bit wary about getting seasick,

but the sea was calm, and everyone felt okay. We also had the chance to assess the forecast; the best thing about being on a catamaran is that you can go wherever the wind was blowing! I was eager to finally kiteboard and see if it was as beautiful as everyone had said it was.

Over the next few days, we sailed around the central Cyclades. The routes were chosen according to the weather patterns and wind conditions. The main islands we visited were Paros, Antiparos, Naxos, Kofounissi, Rinia, and Mykonos.

It felt unbelievable to kiteboard at these mind-blowing locations! We were alone most of the time and the conditions could not have been any better. For me, that meant flat water as far as the eye can see. The colours in the water had all the different shades of turquoise you could imagine, and it was so clear that even in deeper waters, I could still see the bottom.

A small dingy would take us to the deserted beaches to rig up, which was fantastic but launching from the catamaran was also an option and personally, my favourite!



At first, I was a bit concerned that I wouldn't enjoy being on a boat for that long, without much space, but to my surprise, I didn't mind it at all! There was always a quiet place to escape to if I wanted to be alone. My favourite thing to do was to unwind lying on the net on the top of the catamaran, with a good book or to sleep in and feel the movement of the sea, which was incredibly relaxing.



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“THERE WAS ALWAYS A QUIET PLACE TO ESCAPE TO IF I WANTED TO BE ALONE.”

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“ YOU HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM, AND FROM THE BEGINNING, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY POSITIVE. ”



On a boat, you have to work together as a team, and from the beginning, the atmosphere was very positive. We were a mix of people from all over the world, different ages, different professions, but shared interests!

It was wonderful to be able to anchor the catamaran in front or even in the harbour of small Greek towns. Using words like stunning, picturesque, scenic, beautiful, to describe these villages honestly don't do them justice, they were genuinely breathtaking!

“ IT IS THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF WILDERNESS AND LOCAL DISCOVERY WITH PLENTY OF WIND, THANKS TO THE STRONG LOCAL MELTEMI ”

I fell in love with the Greek cuisine; they mainly use local ingredients, such as delicious Mediterranean vegetables, thick olive oil, lemon infused foods, various species of fish and local meat, and grains and legumes. Dishes are flavoursome and packed with a variety of fresh and dried herbs.

We were able to kiteboard on most days, and when the wind dropped, we had the chance to enjoy the other amazing things on offer. Diving off the catamaran into the turquoise water and snorkelling around the boat became part of my daily routine. Some days, I would climb up the mast, looking down, I would see the rest of the people relaxing, and as I would look onto the horizon, I'd always be blown away by the view.

I have been fortunate enough to travel a lot over the last few years, but this was honestly one of my favourite trips of all time. I never thought that I would enjoy life on a catamaran this much.





The simplicity of it is so captivating, all you do is kite, eat, sleep and check the weather and wind conditions to look for the next place to explore. That's why I decided to team up with The Action Cruise and organise a clinic this summer. I cannot wait to take my guests in July on this fantastic adventure!

With more and more companies organising trips like this in the Mediterranean, it has become an adventure we should all have on our bucket list. No longer the preserve of an expensive long haul flight the kite trip of a lifetime is now on our European doorstep!

"IT HAS BECOME AN ADVENTURE WE SHOULD ALL HAVE ON OUR BUCKET LIST."

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MANERA

HOME LATEST ISSUE NEWS REVIEWS TECHNIQUE TRAVEL GUIDES BRANDS RIDERS SCHOOLS

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME
Sensi Graves looks at the rise of the Kite Park League and tracks the success story of one of the best kitesurfing movements on the planet right now!

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“ FROM JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER, THE WEATHER IS WARM, SUNNY AND WINDY. ”

THE CLIMATE IN THE CYCLADES

Summer: From June to mid-September, the weather is warm, sunny and windy. The Meltemi blows for long periods, especially in July and August, and it is stronger in the afternoon but sometimes lasts towards the evenings.

Direction: N – NNE – NNW

Wind Speed: 12 – 35 knots |

Kite sizes: 6m – 14m

Due to the wind, the temperature remains below 30 °C (86 °F)

Day air temperature: 25 - 29 °C.

Water temperature: 25 °C.

www.manuelajungo.com

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MOVIE NIGHT

#1 KITESURFING RAPIDS

We're not surprised to see Julien Fillion claim the spot at #1 on our Movie Night list this issue! Imagine thousands of gallons per second of water pouring over a series of shelves, reefs and rocks creating the Lachine Rapids; possibly the last place you'd imagine kiteboarding, right? Wrong! Watch this!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 MY MOST PAINFUL KITEBOARDING ACCIDENT (BROKE MY LEG) - RUBEN LENTEN

This one left us awe-struck! Ruben he shares what happened during recent horrific accident in Barcelona. Even though he broke his leg, with multiple fractures, he still inspires people around the world to always look on the bright side of life!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 NICK JACOBSEN URBAN KITE BOARDING, COPENHAGEN

We all know Nick Jacobsen is mental, and we love him for it! After travelling around all winter, kiteboarding at his home spot just didn't seem to cut it, and so, as always, he took things up a notch! You better grab a seat and whack this one on the big screen!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 UMBRELLA FOIL

We've seen numerous leading manufacturers testing handheld wings, and we'll be seeing these wings appear in their 2020 collections, no doubt! Dmitry Evseev, inspired by it all, had an idea! Here's something you don't see every day... Watch Dmitry attempt to foil with an umbrella!



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SUNSET IN CAPE TOWN, A SIGHT EVERY KITEBOARDER SHOULD ENJOY AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE!
PHOTO FLYSURFER

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