

FEBRUARY / MARCH 20

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 79 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! It's another amazing issue this time around, absolutely packed with the best stories, photos and videos from around the world. In this issue Jesse Richman rides massive Jaws and tells us how it's done. Craig Cunningham drops by for a chat about life managing the

Duotone Team and Paul Serin is hunting for gold in Mozambique. In a new feature, Insight, we focus on women working in the industry who are kicking ass and taking names, Lyndee Talmage from Slingshot is first up! On top of that there is absolutely loads more inside with tests, technique and plenty to keep you entertained.

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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

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- MEN WHO RIDE MOUNTAINS -

DEATH OF PARK / THE INTERVIEW - CRAIG CUNNINGHAM
INSIGHT - LYNDEE TALMAGE / TECHNIQUE / TESTS / & MORE INSIDE

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

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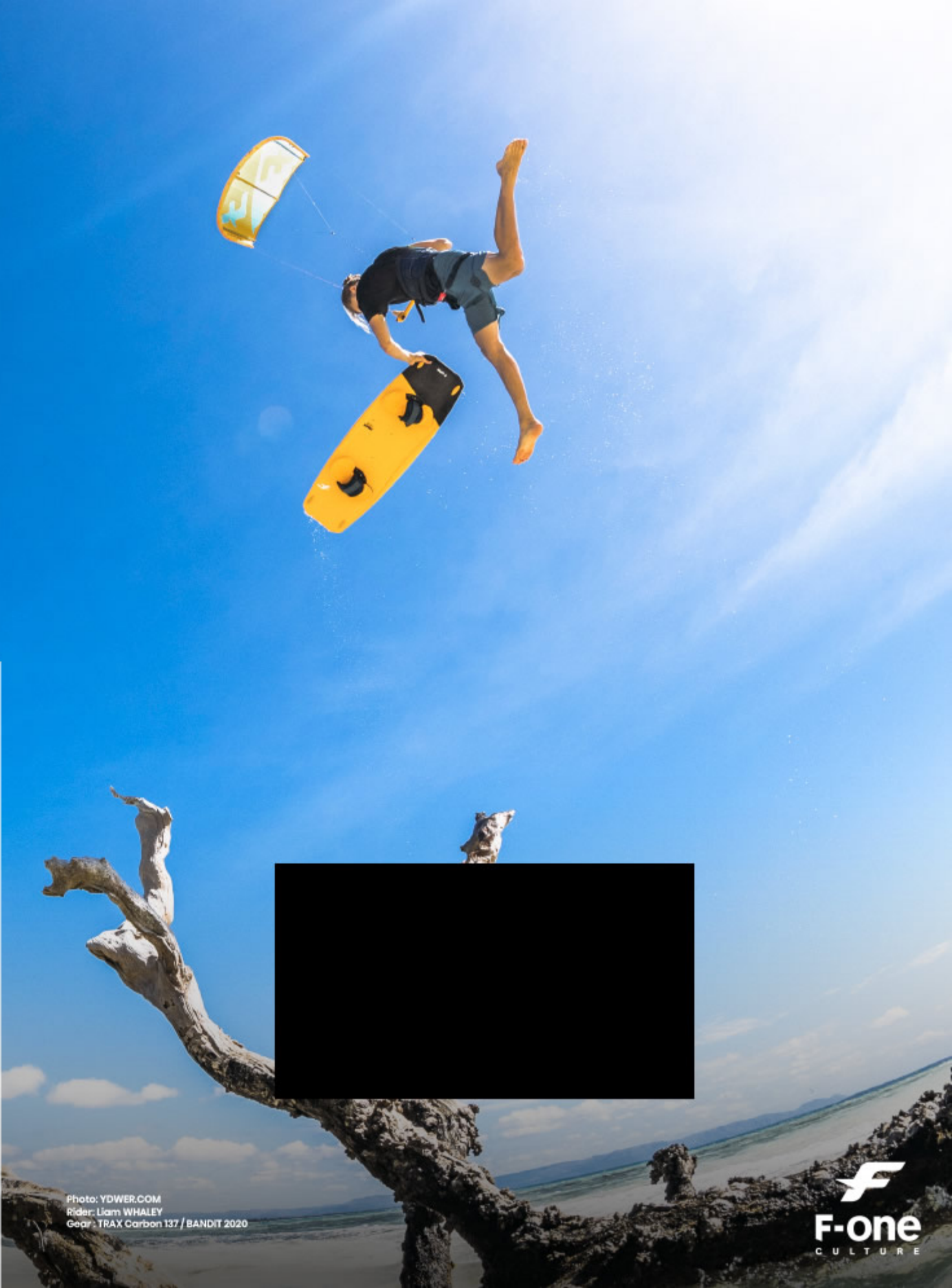
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 P. Sobolev



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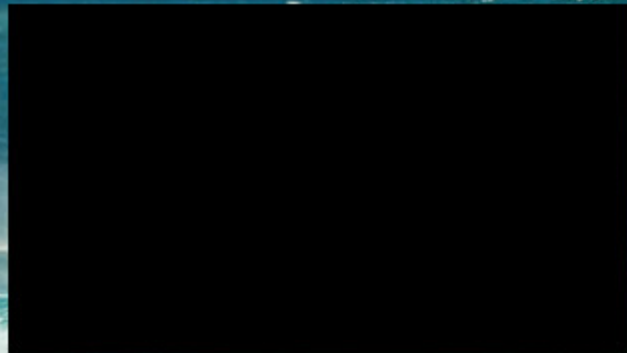
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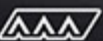



MOTO

VERSATILE FREERIDE / CROSSOVER

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14



 CIT MODES /
WAVE - ALLROUND - FREESTYLE

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- 5.0
- 6.0
- 7.0
- 8.0
- 9.0
- 10.0
- 11.0
- 12.0
- 13.5
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- 17.0

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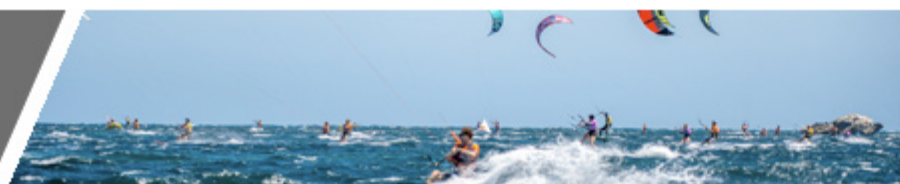
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magazine should be participated in
without full instruction in person by a
qualified instructor.



RAMONA STUDER ENJOYING SOME FRESH POWDER SNOWKITE CONDITIONS IN HOCHWANG, SWITZERLAND
PHOTO LUKAS PITTSCH



WIN

This issue we have teamed up with Flysurfer to offer one lucky reader an incredible prize! The RUSH provides immense pop, precision and control; exactly what you need for more technical tricks. It's also fun and easy to ride, giving you confidence in all conditions. This board is aimed at riders who want to push their skills. Get ready to unlock your potential... The thin profile means minimal swing weight for your

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most radical spins. Thanks to the blunt tip and tail shape, the Double Stepped Rails and a new flex pattern, the RUSH creates immense pop, absorbs chop and gives you full control when you are locked in—ready for high speed boosting. Whoever wins this will be the envy of their mates down the beach, and they'll be boosting to the moon in no time! Remember you've got to be in it to win it!

HOW CAN I WIN THE PRIZE?

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

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

ISSUE 79 Readers Awards

Thanks so much, to those of you that took the time to vote in our Readers Awards last month! It's the 9th Edition of the awards and each year they seem to get bigger and better. This year just over 18,500 of you took part and voted for your favourite brands, riders and films across eight categories.

The big winner in 2019 was F-ONE, scooping the coveted Best Brand award and also the Best Board Manufacturer too.

Duotone were voted Best Kite Manufacturer, and Mystic once again picked up the Best Accessories Brand award. Best Male Rider went to Kevin Langeree, well deserved after his incredible KOTA victory in 2019. Mikaili Sol picked up the Best Female Kitesurfer, an undeniable accolade after her astonishing year on the GKA World Tour!

Finally, the Best Kitesurfing Film award went to Snowkiting – What It Means while Ben Beholz scooped the new Best Kitesurfing Vlog category. It's always a lot of effort to put these awards on, and while the team here does the back end and hard work, without your votes, these awards wouldn't mean anything.

Next year will see the tenth anniversary of the awards, and we're planning something big to ensure they fittingly reach that landmark. It's funny that when we first had this idea back in 2011, it seemed like a bit of fun for the industry. Over time it's morphed into the most respected accolades in the business, and that is all thanks to you.

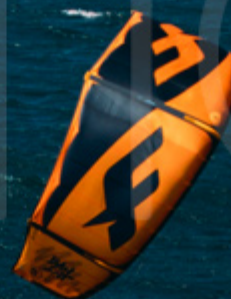
All that remains is to congratulate the winners, thank you once again for voting and for taking part all that remains is to get the physical awards made up and shipped out!

Perhaps next year we'll finally have that black-tie event with a red carpet...

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor

MATT MAXWELL SHREDDING IN MADAGASCAR
ON THE NEW F-ONE BANDIT S
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE

EDITORIAL



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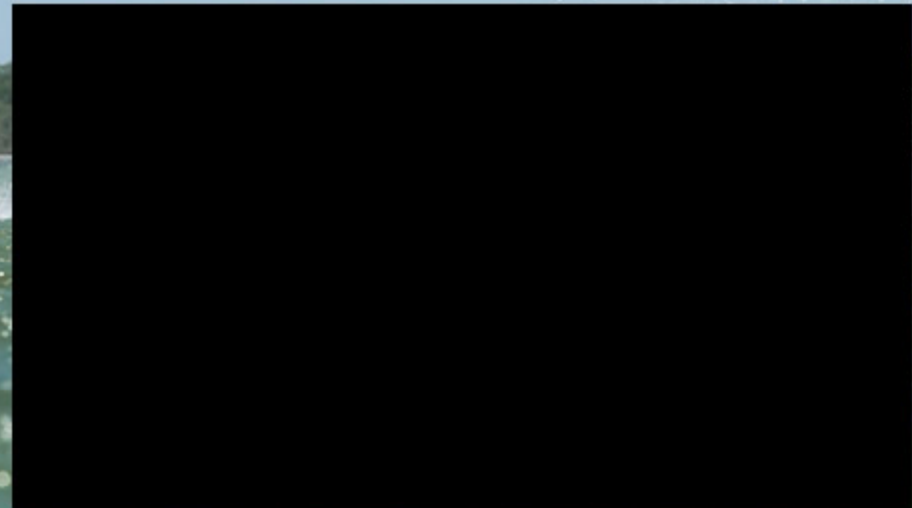


+ 4x4 CANOPY TECH

New for 2020, we've upgraded our canopy construction with Tejlin 4x4 reinforced ripstop material. This is the strongest, stiffest and most durable canopy material on the market. Your kite will last longer, have a higher resale value and feel more solid and stable in the air, especially in gusty wind.

+ FLYLINE BRIDLE

A combination of the pulleyed bridle featured on previous RPM models and the bungee IFS bridle we engineered a few years ago. We introduced pulleys on the RPM to give the kite more structural stability and dynamic steering. Then we replaced the pulleys with our IFS bungee system to achieve a more direct feel and smoother power delivery as the kite flies through the window. The FLYLINE bridle combines both pulley and bungee in a new configuration that results in a faster, higher-flying, more powerful RPM than ever before.



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WORDS JESSE RICHMAN

THE MAN WHO RIDES MOUNTAINS

After Jesse dropped some insane images from a recent photo shoot at Jaws we just had to get the low down on what goes through his mind. We contacted the photographers, got Jesse on the case with the words and give you this, one of the most analytical approaches to riding mountains that you will ever read...





“ IT'S GENUINELY ABOUT STRENGTHENING THE MIND AND BODY TOGETHER TO BE ABLE TO ENDURE ANYTHING YOU MIGHT ENCOUNTER IN THE OCEAN ”

Peahi (aka Jaws) isn't merely a wave, to a small group of dedicated ocean athletes, it's a way of life. Every year, we run through the cycles; training, preparation, game day, recovery, repeat. Also, within that cycle, we run microcycles. We go through the paces that we've been through before. We cross and dot all the metaphorical "t's" and "l's" to get to that moment that we live for.

The moment where we're looking up ahead of us, and we know that it's time to go for it, to pick the line that will get us barreled. We adjust our feet ever so slightly, lean back just a touch, but keep heavy forward foot pressure, let the kite drift back to the perfect position and BAM! It works, and we get the wave of our life, or, 9 out of 10 times, we misjudge something and Splat! Whoosh! Kaaaaaaboom! We get smoked, and thus the cycle starts again.

Although Hawaii doesn't get hit with big waves that ignite the fires of Peahi until the wintertime, training starts in the summer. The summer is great to focus on building strength and taking advantage of the long days by doing several sports throughout the light hours and hitting a solid gym session in the evening; pair that with good food, and your body is stoked!

Where the real gains are made is in the mind by taking time to focus on the breath and reprogramming your body to be able to deal with a lack of oxygen and a build-up of carbon dioxide. It's genuinely about strengthening the mind and body together to be able to endure anything you might encounter in the ocean and have the confidence to make decisions under extreme pressure. When you're out at jaws, it's not just your life on the line, everyone out there is relying on each other to be ready for anything.



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“IT IS BY FAR, ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO TRAIN FOR BIG WAVES AND CONFIDENCE IN THE OCEAN.”

Another summer prep-game is group training. Literally gathering with other big wave surfers/kitesurfers to share knowledge on how to save each other in the worst of situations. Two ways to do this that I would highly recommend to anyone who wants to be more comfortable and confident in the ocean are taking the BWRAG (Big Wave Risk Assessment Group) course and going through a freediving course.

BWRAG goes through everything from a life-saving perspective and helps people prepare to rescue someone in need. All this becomes extremely relevant in intense conditions. A freediving course is one of the most magical things you will ever do. Herein, you learn all about what happens when you hold your breath both scientifically and spiritually. Understanding the physiological and psychological sensations that arise when you hold your breath is priceless, and it is by far, one of the best ways to train for big waves and confidence in the ocean.

Then the fun game of gear and getting everything dialled in! The boards we ride

need to be tuned to perfection with the straps fitting perfectly. The kites make it simple as they do what we want (if you're riding a badass kite, like the North Carve), but I also need to know my kite like the back of my hand, and that only happens with a tremendous number of hours put in.

You want to have every single tool in your arsenal that you can to mitigate the danger. One big gun is having a suit of armour should you take a fall. In this case, it's floatation. Not being safe doesn't make you a badass, it makes you a dumbass; you put your own life in peril as well as those around you. Peril exists even if you take every precaution possible, but a lot can be prevented with these few simple tools and all the proper training.

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The most common set up at Peahi, and other big waves are rocking an impact vest underneath, or built into, your wetsuit, paired with an inflation vest. Having all these layers is quite cumbersome and dramatically affects your range of motion. The best way to deal with this is to wear your big wave floatation set up a lot to become comfortable with it on.

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS YOUR TEAM. HAVING AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON OUT THERE WITH YOU IS ALWAYS THE KEY TO SUCCESS”

On top of the floatation, when kiteboarding, we have the harness, which equates to even more gear. The truth is, all the floatation that feels huge when you put it on in your living room feels tiny when you're getting worked by a huge wave. So, go grocery shopping in your impact vest if you have to; become comfortable in it! I ride a Mystic Majestic Impact vest under my Mystic 3/2 Zip-free suit with a Patagonia inflation vest, and I use a Mystic Majestic hard shell harness with the stealth rope slider bar.

Next is a huge and expensive piece of equipment, the Jet Ski. Just having a jet ski in your back yard is pretty useless but having an extremely reliable machine that you often use and know all the ins and outs of, is your best friend in big waves. Herein lies another significant factor, how to drive a jet ski and kite big waves at the same time? You don't. In big waves, the most important thing is your team. Having at least one other person out there with you is always the key to success.

I have been going out to Jaws with Patri Mclaughlin for the last 10 years. Patri and I own a jet ski together, we kite together, we tow surf together, we train together, we hang out together, and we know exactly what each other is thinking when we are out on the ocean. Having him out there is an absolute necessity for me to be able to push my limits.







“EVERYTHING LEADING UP TO THIS DAY CAN BECOME BUSY AND VERY INTENSE WITH AN AIR OF URGENCY AND EXCITEMENT.”

Patri looks at Jaws the same way that I do, in saying that "Jaws is unlike any other wave I've seen. It focuses millions of gallons of water upwards into a perfect picturesque monster. The bigger it gets, the more perfect it gets." Having him by my side is priceless and makes every part of the training and game day experience that much more special.

We also have a few good friends that we trust on our rescue ski. We need someone who knows us well and understands what's happening. Right now, we've been training Zach Perry, a kitesurfing veteran, to become the ultimate rescue driver by doing everything I speak about in this story, with him. So far, it's been an incredible experience.

Game Day - So we find ourselves on the day, everything leading up to this day can become busy and very intense with an air of urgency and excitement. The key is to

maintain a relaxed and chill mindset. Even though it's essential to be prepared and have everything ready to go, it's more important to be relaxed. Our mindset is everything, and it's also universal.

Skilled athletes are usually good at multiple sports, successful businessmen are generally good at making money in a variety of ways, but experienced kiteboarders, learn how to deal with stress, pressure, and fear. When fear is processed in a specific way, it can be harnessed to become fuel for perfect focus. The most recent evolution of my approach was just refined yesterday while competing at the 2020 Red Bull King of the Air in Cape Town.





Skilled athletes are usually good at multiple sports, successful businessmen are generally good at making money in a variety of ways, but experienced kiteboarders, learn how to deal with stress, pressure, and fear. When fear is processed in a specific way, it can be harnessed to become fuel for perfect focus. The most recent evolution of my approach was just refined yesterday while competing at the 2020 Red Bull King of the Air in Cape Town.

"EXPERIENCED KITEBOARDERS, LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH STRESS, PRESSURE, AND FEAR"

SURFBOARDS

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Here, I had a pretty incredible day where I accessed a completely different mindset from years past but one that was interestingly similar to the year that I won in 2013. The critical element in these two, title-winning years, was that I didn't put too much stake in the competition, and the more I focused on it, the better I would do. What ended up happening was that because of this intense pressure, I would choke in the semi-finals or finals, every time, like clockwork.

“I'M THE 2020 RED BULL KING OF THE AIR BECAUSE I RELAXED AND ENJOYED AND GOT INTO MY FLOW.”

This year, I happened to be more excited by big waves than big air. Even more paramount, I have a new family that is the most magical experience I've had thus far. Because of this, I realised that if I win or lose at the King of the Air, it didn't really matter, life is still going to be amazing! With this new mindset, I was able to maintain an incredibly relaxed vibe the entire day.

That's not to say that I didn't do a ton of work to prepare. I had a solid heat plan that I was committed to sticking with, but without a doubt, the key was chilling, breathing, relaxing, and enjoying. I felt like I had the most fun out in the water, and it got me the win. I'm the 2020 Red Bull King of the Air because I relaxed and enjoyed and got into my flow.

It might be slightly different at Jaws, but the mindset is still the same. Prepare as much as you can so that when you go out, you can relax and have fun. Also, knowing that even if you don't get a wave, it's okay. If you bring big expectations out there, you set yourself up to choke and come back with a big disappointment. If you go out there relaxed and excited to have a good time, you're in a much better position.





Kai Lenny is one of the most progressive athletes in the world and absolutely crushes it at Jaws, as I'm sure you all know. I asked him what he thought allowed him to be so good out there and he told me this:

"My experience from the time I have put in out there has given me a comfortability to approach the wave as a big canvas versus being stunned by the shock factor of the wave. I stay more relaxed and can focus on more progressive manoeuvres. I attribute my years of multi water sports like kitesurfing for giving me the best rides of my life. They are the best way to train for big waves."

" THIS IS ABOUT HAVING FUN, YOU CAN'T HAVE FUN IF YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO MOVE AND IN WAY OVER YOUR HEAD. "

So, all in all, prepare as much as you can and relax. This is about having fun, you can't have fun if you're too scared to move and in way over your head. You have fun when the waves are a challenge but a good fit for your skill level. The real beauty is, we have time. Waves are going to come back every winter and thus give us a long summer to train. If we embrace these cycles and utilise the time to progress every day, we take baby steps, and with enough baby steps, perhaps we will see you out at Peahi.

WHERE KITING MEETS SURFING



SLASH SIZES 4-12 | PURE WAVE/STRAPLESS

For pure kitesurfers, there's no better kite than the Naish Slash. What distinguishes this kite is its ability to pull you in to waves and disengage power, thanks to its excellent bar throw. This allows you to focus 100% on surfing while the Slash simply drifts down the line. Made with Quad-Tex, the strongest canopy material available and packed with other features, the Slash is ready to take on whatever wave you drop in on.



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WORDS ROU CHATER/JEN TYLER

Alexander James Lewis Hughes is one of kiteboardings characters, never afraid to tell the truth, check out his Facebook page for evidence of that; he's not only a talented rider but also a videographer too. His latest release Death Of Park features some of the best riders and is filmed in Alex's own unique style. There's more to Alex than just this movie though, so we sat him down to get the inside scoop on the film, the state of park riding, judging competitions, and the biggest problem in kiteboarding right now...

DEATH OF PARK



**“ WHEN I STARTED KITEBOARDING,
THERE WERE NO PARK COMPETITIONS,
AND THERE WERE NO PARKS! WE MADE
THAT STUFF HAPPEN OURSELVES ”**

Could you tell us a little bit about "Death of Park"; what inspired you to make that movie? Why did you call it "Death of Park"?

I made the movie foremost because I like making movies! Secondly, because I witness so much incredible riding go down that never sees the light of day, which I feel is a shame, and I'd like other people to see that.

I called it Death of Park as a joke, the Triple-S competition has come to an end, and people act like it's the "Death of Park", but for me, park and kiteboarding has never been about competitions. When I started kiteboarding, there were no park competitions, and there were no parks! We made that stuff happen ourselves, the same way the crew over at Real Watersports turned their passion for park riding into the biggest kiteboarding event to have ever been run. If you think this is all the "Death Of Park", then maybe it should be for you.

What filming equipment did you use to film it?

I used a mix of stuff, but my primary setup was a Zcam E2 with custom 2x anamorphic lenses. I also used a GH5 with 1.33x anamorphic for water shots, and an Action Camera cropped to 2:39 aspect for follow shots.

That being said, I don't think you need all that stuff if you want to make a video. The content and angles are the most essential part, and I believe that myself or anyone could do a similar film with equipment totalling no more than \$500 - \$800. Obviously, my setup gives a slightly different look and vibe, but I think that isn't the most important part. I use that gear to help keep me interested and to test my skills.



“ I’VE HAD A FEW THINGS BREAK! MAINLY CAMERAS AND MONITORS FROM PEOPLE SPRAYING ME WITH WATER ARE PROBABLY THE MOST OFTEN INCIDENTS ”

I'd rather watch someone with good framing and eye shoot a video with a miniDV camera than someone with an Alexa blowing shots!

Travelling around with kiteboarding and filming gear must be hectic, how do you choose what you're taking on the trip?

Have you ever had any gear nightmares?

Absolutely; travelling with gear is the worst! If you thought packing the right kite gear was frustrating, try packing the right camera gear and fitting all that extra stuff into your already-too-small baggage allowance! I'm always going back and forth on what to take, and I'll usually pack several things I don't use! I try to think of what I want to shoot on a trip, and what I want it to look like, and plan accordingly. I've accumulated a pretty crazy selection of stuff over the years, so there's no way I can take it all.

I've had a few things break! Mainly cameras and monitors from people spraying me with water are probably the most often incidents, but besides that, I guess I've been pretty lucky. I'm usually pretty careful with my gear, what I do with it and where I leave it; I have to be!

Did you know that the Triple-S was ending? What direction would you like to see Park riding go next?

Yes, I had a few clues! If you consider how long that crew has been running such a full-scale event, I'm surprised they lasted this long. If you've ever been part of an event, you'd know (and if you have, times it by 3 and that's SSS!).

RIDER: GIJS WASSENAAR
PHOTO: CRAIG KOLESKY

AIRUSH KITEBOARDING

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The Ultra has proven to be unbeatable for lightwind freeride performance, foiling, and wave riding alike. The exclusive Airush Load Frame, segmentation reduction through the canopy, and lightweight single strut geometry all contribute to increased durability and responsiveness.

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Park will take its own direction as it always has. Personally, I believe that park has never been defined by the competitions. Kiteboarding is a boardsport, and your respect and image are defined by what you do behind a kite. It's hard to believe these days I know!

When did you and Noé Font start Knot Future and what was the idea behind the project?

It officially started around 2 years ago now, but I'd had the idea and name ready for years. I wanted someone else to help bounce ideas off and go through the whole thing with me; doing something by yourself is lonely. Noé is a good fit, we like similar things, but at the same time, we also have different tastes. He's young, I'm older now, he's into surfing, I'm more into skating, we both are passionate about boardsports and various companies and their image, we both like filming and making films, even if we don't like the same films; I think all those things mix together well, and as a team, we have good direction and connections.

You've been riding for Ozone for a while now; what's your quiver of choice and why?

Honestly, the AMP; even if I didn't help design it! It's the kite I've been looking for since the beginning; I know it sounds lame, but it's the truth! Its medium aspect design makes for a super mellow stable kite that has a versatile enough performance to be good for almost anything I want to do. It's crazy that I actually prefer it to foil on over any of the other LEI Ozone models. The 5th line plays a big part in it all and is hugely underrated as a design aspect. No bridal design, however complex, will replace the performance attributes of a correctly tuned 5th line kite.



“ KITEBOARDING IS A BOARDSPORT, AND YOUR RESPECT AND IMAGE ARE DEFINED BY WHAT YOU DO BEHIND A KITE ”



“ IF YOU’VE GOT THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN CHARGE, YOU KNOW THEY ARE AT LEAST DOING THE BEST JOB THEY CAN DO, AND THAT’S WHAT MATTERS MOST. ”

The stability, smooth flying, and easy relaunch characteristics that a 5th line gives are hard to give up for the benefits of laying out one less line (basically no quicker for me anyway). If I’m looking for the utmost performance for unhooked tricks, I will choose a 5th line kite every time.

What’s it like judging the Kite Park League? How do riders know what tricks score better with the judges and what is it that differentiates them from other riders, in your opinion?

Riders know what scores better because they live that life, they are out in the park riding with everyone, all the time. They know what’s harder and what looks good and they’ve seen the scores from previous events. Judging is never an exact science, and sometimes there are inconsistencies and mistakes. For the most part, riders know what to expect at a KPL event more than any other event, in my

opinion, because we all follow a deep-rooted culture and history of boardsports, tricks and their progression, not just some random scoring criteria. It’s all subjective at best, but if you’ve got the right people in charge, you know they are at least doing the best job they can do, and that’s what matters most.

Judging friends, or even a girlfriend, must be tricky; how do you manage to keep things separate?

Who’s the worst person for arguing against a score?

For the record, I never judge my girlfriend, but doing so would usually only lead to a negative for that person in my opinion. People have brought up the fact that I often score Ewan Jaspán the lowest of anyone, and I’d attribute that to having seen his riding the most.

“ IN GENERAL, THE RIDERS WHO ARE THE MOST COMPETITIVE, ARGUE THE MOST; NOT ALWAYS, BUT IT'S A FAIRLY SOLID RULE! ”



There's something about seeing someone ride more that gives you higher expectations, even if it's only subconsciously. Then again, the other option could be having a less experienced judge that might not recognise various technicalities or tricks correctly; it's hard to say what's better. I lean towards hiring judges with the needed knowledge foremost before I consider anything else. Unfortunately, we are such a small sport that it's impossible to get anyone I'd consider qualified that has no ties to various riders or brands; that's in any discipline.

In general, the riders who are the most competitive, argue the most; not always, but it's a fairly solid rule! Competitions are totally against my view of what boardsports are actually all about, I only do it all because I know it's some kind of necessary evil to help those uneducated people understand better what's happening and motivate people to push the limits more.

We know you are passionate about the environment, what changes have you made in your day-to-day to help?

Good question! I try my best to refrain from using single-use plastics, not taking away coffee cups, not buying products in excessive packaging, walking, skating or taking public transport when I can; there's a lot of things you can do if you just try a little.

I'm not perfect, far from it, but the important thing is I'm thinking about it and trying to make some kind of change. The craziest thing for me is when you get negative feedback from people for trying to inspire or educate others to do the same. "You hypocrite! You fly on planes" or "Your kite gear is polluting more than anything", etc. To me, this just shows people feel threatened and embarrassed by their own actions, and the fact that they are likely not trying at all.



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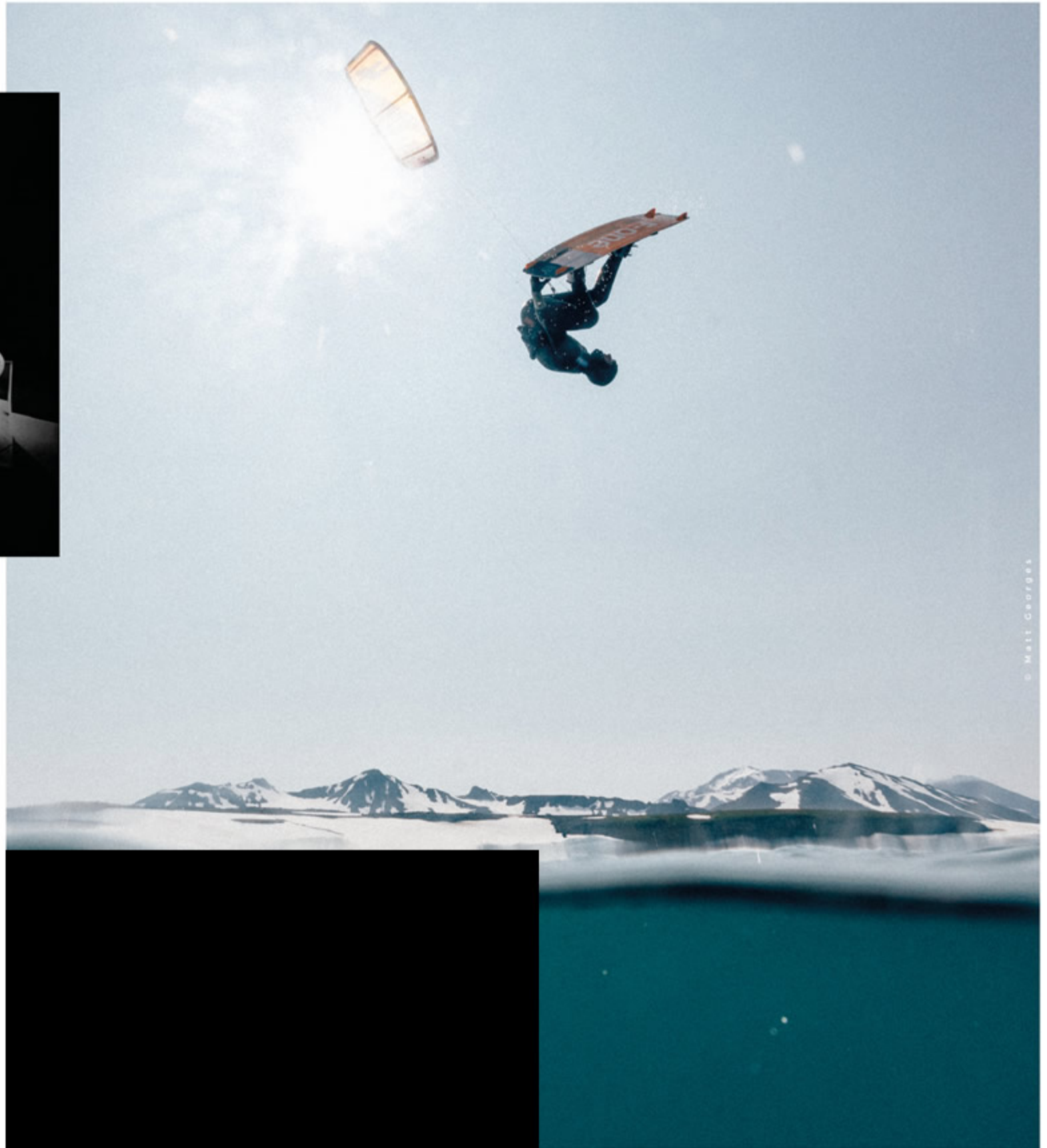
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DISCOVER THE ECLIPSE



© Matt George



How can you be angry at someone for trying? Just like Climate Change, if we try and it doesn't do anything other than make the places we live better to exist in, then what's the issue? Are those people who do more than us any better than us? I've thought about it, and they probably are, there are tons of selfless humans out there who are better than me, and I salute them.

You're not afraid you give your honest opinion, which is refreshing to see in an industry where so many tow the mainstream line, let's take this opportunity to get some honest answers in the magazine...

What's the biggest problem with the kitesurfing industry right now?

Hahaha! "Problem" is a big word.

Personally, I'd say the biggest problem is the same problem as with anything else in the world right now; Denial. Failure to accept expert opinion or advice. We seem to be living in a world of fake news, we have Prime Ministers ignoring the opinions of the best scientists in the world in favour of their "beliefs". To me, this is just mirrored in the kite space, people won't listen to those with expert opinions, whether it be pro riders or those doing the sport with countless years of experience. Instead, you have under experienced people spruiking their opinion and downplaying the role of pro and experienced kites in every avenue of this sport, from competition to equipment design and choice etc. Some people might not agree with me on this one but ask anyone else who's been kiting 20+ years and tell me what they think.



“ PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN TO THOSE WITH EXPERT OPINIONS, WHETHER IT BE PRO RIDERS OR THOSE DOING THE SPORT WITH COUNTLESS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. ”



“ IF YOU SHOWED SOMEONE DOING A BACK 3 OR FRONT 3 ONTO A HANDRAIL, THEY WOULDN'T EVEN SEE A DIFFERENCE, AND THAT'S JUST ONE SMALL SEGMENT OF WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT ”

Should we be hung up on Instagram?

Should you be hung up on the Matrix? I don't know! If you want to live in the Matrix, then maybe. As far as I know, kites are still sold to people in the real world, so I'm going put my effort into that for now!

Who doesn't get the recognition they deserve in this sport?

I'd say there are quite some park riders who don't get enough credit. Park, as a discipline, also doesn't get enough recognition. I think mostly because the average person just isn't at a level to understand it. I don't mean to offend the average rider, but if you showed someone doing a back 3 or front 3 onto a handrail, they wouldn't even see a difference, and that's just one small segment of what I'm talking about.

Park is the most versatile discipline in the

world, and you need the most skills of any discipline to win a contest or become a champion. Other disciplines are very one dimensional, with only a certain movement or technique being replicated over and over again. Park has so many intricate movements of the kite and positioning to achieve different rail hits or kicker tricks. It reminds me a lot of riding down the line on a wave, un-hooked, except you need to perform various tricks at the same time, which have their own techniques and a high risk factor.

Again, without offending anyone, there have been some well-known pro riders turn up, thinking park would be easy then realising they can't even land on the rail!

As an example, one of Ramiro's good friends and talented (now SS team rider) Lucas turned up to Hood last summer and couldn't do a thing, he worked hard all summer and by the end was getting a respectable trick here and there. I don't want to throw Lucas under the bus, because he's actually a really talented rider and made massive progression in such a short time! It just shows you how technical park riding actually is at the top level.

If you want some names, I think women like Annelous and Karolina certainly don't get enough recognition. Both these women have a technical prowess far beyond most other women competing, and far beyond most men competing as well! (Again, that's no offence to other women!) These two are just leaps ahead when it comes to how versatile they are at all disciplines and the level of kite control they showcase. Not to mention both were super competitive and successful in the Freestyle scene and then switched over to park and killed it there as well.

Karolina is the only woman (or man) to have won world titles in two legitimate competitive disciplines, and she achieved both those results at the pinnacle of competition in both scenes (she beat every single rider who currently is competing in the Freestyle scene, except Mika who wasn't there at the time)

As for the men, it's pretty hard to deny the talent of people like Brandon Scheid or Ewan Jaspan. Brandon is so competitive and able to just huck his body consistently bigger than anyone else while throwing NBDs, and Ewan for the fact he's the most versatile and creative rider in the world, arguably in three different disciplines! (That might sound like a big claim, but if you go over all the footage and history, let me know if you come up with another contender for those accolades!)

“THESE TWO ARE JUST LEAPS AHEAD WHEN IT COMES TO HOW VERSATILE THEY ARE AT ALL DISCIPLINES AND THE LEVEL OF KITE CONTROL THEY SHOWCASE.”





I also think people like Noé, Alex, Christophe, Ramiro are also massively underrated, those guys are consistently pushing the envelope and making it look good!

Christophe is severely underrated and hasn't ever got his dues, in my opinion. If I was to only dissect how he won a world title at one of the most competitive points in Freestyle history, that's a legend in itself. Here's a guy that goes out and throws a different heat, often with new tricks he hasn't done in competition, every heat, every event for a year, while everyone else throws the same dull routine heat after heat! Find me anyone else who has done that in Freestyle (or in another sport even).

“WITH NEW TRICKS HE HASN'T DONE IN COMPETITION, EVERY HEAT, EVERY EVENT FOR A YEAR”

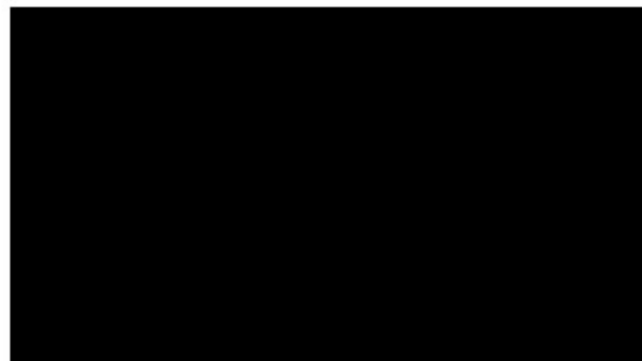


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“ HONESTLY I DON'T THINK THEY ARE A STUPID PRODUCT IF THAT'S ACTUALLY WHAT YOU ARE INTO ”

If I was to go back to that year and judge it by myself, he beat everyone by about a factor of 3. Wondering what I'm on about? Find a link of someone else doing a Pete7 off flat with the kite low, and we'll talk!

What's the worst product on the market right now, in your opinion?

To paraphrase the documentary South Park, "There are no stupid products, just stupid people".

For real though, I guess most people expect me to say those wing ding things or something, but honestly I don't think they are a stupid product if that's actually what you are into. If someone told me I should use that to go foiling instead of a kite, then I would say it's a stupid product, but if you actually use it and enjoy it then how can it be a stupid product?

The real stupid products are ones that try and re-invent things or make silly adjustments to stuff to make them incompatible or worse etc. Things like the Fireball, Sigma shape kite, Cuban Fibre LEs, twist quick release, are among the cream of stupid products, in my opinion, there are lots of them!

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Paul Serin and some friends head to the wilder side of the African continent in search of wind, waves and sunshine. As ever with a kite trip the weather didn't play ball, but between the sharks, grey skies and issues with crossing borders they scored it pretty good in the end!

ON THE ROAD IN MOZAMBIQUE





“ WE WANTED A PLACE FAR AWAY FROM THE MAIN KITE SCENE, SOMEWHERE FRESH AND FULL OF ADVENTURE. ”

Mozambique, not the first place you think of when planning a kiteboarding trip, but it was exactly what we wanted. We wanted a place far away from the main kite scene, somewhere fresh and full of adventure. Let me start by introducing the team! Victor, a French rider who has been on the scene for

over 15 years, Nino, a young freestyle shredder and filmmaker, Hugo, the photographer and myself. I decide to take a break from competing this year and mainly focus on kiteboarding adventures instead. To keep things interesting, we decided to fly to Johannesburg and drive up to Mozambique; quite the mission but we thought it would be worth it! Word of advice though, if you do ever decide to make this trip, do make sure you rent a car with its

clearance paperwork intact to be able to cross the borders. The first car we rented wasn't authorised to cross the border, and so we had to drive back to Johannesburg, change cars and redo the trip all over again! We were still able to keep our spirits positive, laugh it off and enjoy the ride and we even got to listen to our playlists twice!

We finally crossed the border, with less drama than what we expected, and we were finally ready for Mozambique and hungry for action.





ELEVATING SENSATION.



Mozambique was a Portuguese colony and gained its independence in 1975, so everyone speaks Portuguese there. It almost felt like we were back in Brazil for a second, but no, this felt completely new.

The first few days we were there, it rained, and the wind was light, and the locals all seemed surprised. They told us that it was extremely uncommon weather conditions for this time of the year. If you've ever been on a kiteboarding trip, you'll know that the locals always say that, but we all know the truth, it's just our luck!

“ THE LOCALS ALWAYS SAY THAT, BUT WE ALL KNOW THE TRUTH, IT'S JUST OUR LUCK! ”



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“ WHILE HE WAS OUT THERE, HIS LEASH SNAPPED. THE CURRENT WAS SO STRONG THAT HE ENDED UP ON THE ROCKS, IN AN ABSOLUTE STATE OF PANIC. ”

We were still able to go for a few sessions; the rain wasn't going to stop us! After a quick stop and light freestyle session in Bilene, we decided to head North in search of some wind, waves and sunshine. The amount of cashew nuts we ate on the road is unreal, they are delicious and a must-try if you are in Mozambique.

We arrived in Tofo, which is famous for surfing and has few 'secret' kiteboarding spots too. The sky stayed grey for days, but we were still able to surf right in front of the house every morning and waited for the wind patiently.

One morning, Hugo decided to go surfing instead of taking pictures, and while he was out there, his leash snapped. The current was so strong that he ended up on the rocks, in an absolute state of panic. I was able to get to him on my board, and we waited for the opportunity to swim back together. The community is so small and close in the area that within 10 minutes, everyone was at the beach, aware of the incident and offering to help. Hugo was a little stressed by what had just happened, but he was ok and later on, we all had a glass of wine to celebrate the fact that he was alive!







At last, one morning, we woke up to sunshine and the trade winds were back in full swing; we were ready for some freestyle action! We kiteboarded all day at a spot called White Sand, which was perfectly flat regardless of the tides. To make matters even better, Chris and Sachia, our local friends, brought a BBQ and cooked fresh lobster and fish at sunset; what an unforgettable day. We decided to prolong our stay in Tofo for one more day because the surf was so good and the conditions looked ideal for paragliding (we had our kit with us, like real adventurers!).

“ THE TRADE WINDS WERE BACK IN FULL SWING; WE WERE READY FOR SOME FREESTYLE ACTION! ”



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" WE FORGOT ABOUT THE SHARKS AND JUST STARTED SENDING IT. WE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY THERE, WITH THE ENTIRE SPOT TO OURSELVES. "

The following day, a light thermal wind blew in the right direction for the dune in Playa de Los Rochas, so we spent the afternoon in the air, soaring with a breathtaking view of Tofo; that image will remain in my memory forever.

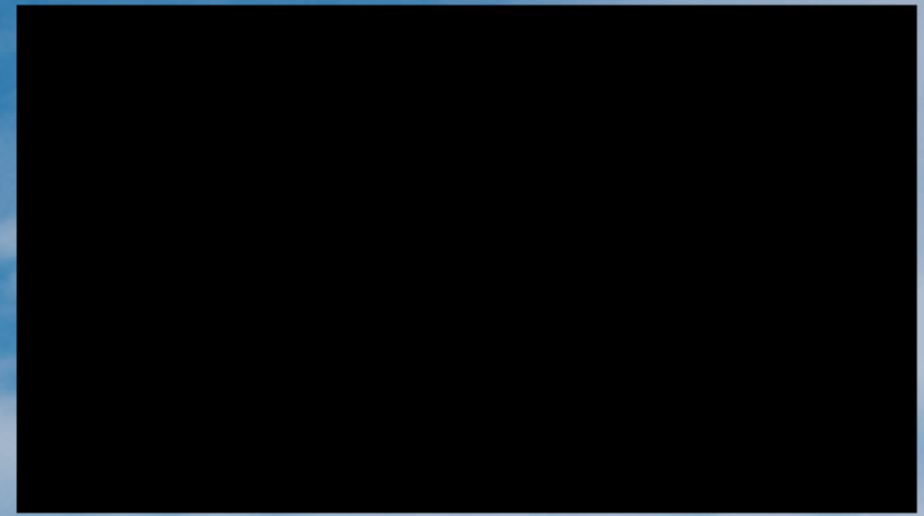
Tofo delivered, but it was time for the next spot, and so, we got back into the car and off we went! We were on route to the south of Bilene, which is where our base camp was, but we decided to stop at Limpopo, which is known as a pretty epic freestyle spot. Fun fact about this river mouth is that it's one of the places where you can find the biggest concentration of bull sharks (which are also known, if you know your sharks, as Limpopo sharks!)

The kite lagoon was to the side of the river and so Guillaume, a local kiteboarder, said we shouldn't worry! We all rode cautiously, and none of us crashed a single trick, but after a while, we forgot about the sharks and just started sending it. We spent the whole day there, with the entire spot to ourselves.

On our way back, we stopped at the lighthouse to enjoy the sunset from above. This place is wild and raw, and I feel like we honestly need to take more care of our planet and keep places like this pristine.

GO FOR IT!

The leap into the unknown is scary but stepping out of your comfort zone is the only way to grow and learn in life. The same is true for kiteboarding. Whether you're working on your first water starts, tackling your first jibes, or sending your first jumps, the "go for it" mentality is the key to success. Our main goal at Liquid Force Kites is to help you confidently conquer the unknown by creating gear that allows you to comfortably push yourself beyond your limits.





“ WE WERE THERE TO FIND BEAUTY AND TO SHARE SOMETHING UNIQUE, AND I FEEL LIKE WE ACHIEVED THAT ”

Over the following days, we drove around in search of more dunes to paraglide off, or waves to surf. Some days we found gold and some days nothing, and that's just how it goes! The purpose of a trip like was to experience something different, other than a training trip to Brazil! We were there to find beauty and to share something unique, and I feel like we achieved that.

On the road back to Johannesburg, we decided to drive through Kruger Park, which is after the border of Mozambique. For years, people haven't been able to spot much wildlife, but for us, within 5 minutes of being in the park, we saw lions, elephants, giraffes and with 10 minutes, hippos, impalas, rhinos... it was insane! The highlight of this trip, for me, was the kindness and happiness the locals emit. We loved everything about Africa, and it just goes to show that being rich doesn't mean having a lot of money, it's what's around you.

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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



HELIAARDE

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TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Hello class. It's always exciting choosing what will grace the pages of this hallowed magazine's technique section. Well, if you have the tenacity and desire, we have an abundance of glittering gems on offer this month. Should you plan on making an instant impact even before your fins get wet, then the Back Roll Beach Start should have you weak at the knees. Next up and as is our want of combining achievable skills into a greater form which you can belligerently stitch together, it's time for the Front Roll Tail Grab Board Off, no flexibility necessary. And finally, Heliarde is on hand for some style and substance as we take you through the mouth watering Inverted Grabbed Double BLT.

As always, we hope you embrace the challenge!
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BEACH START BACK ROLL



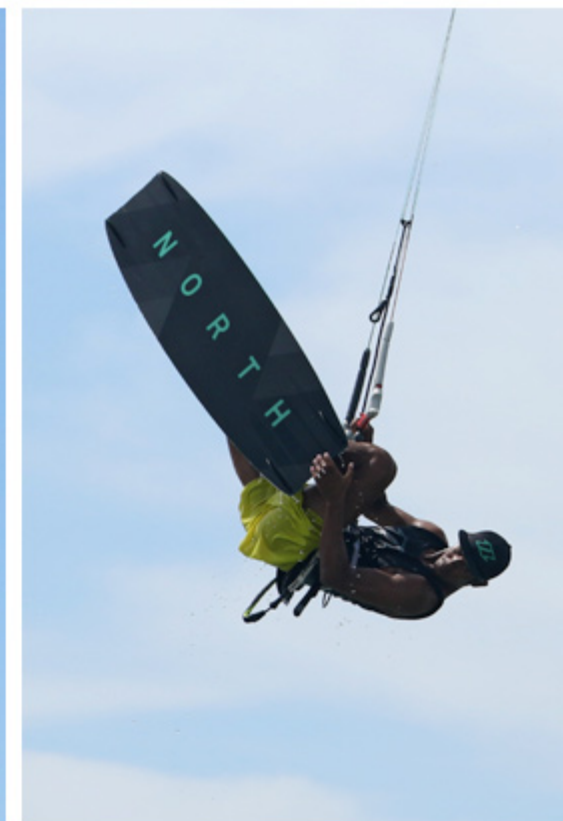
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FRONT ROLL TAIL GRAB BOARD OFF



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INVERTED GRABBED DOUBLE BLT



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BEACH START BACK ROLL >

Kite - North Orbit 7m

Board - North Atmos Hybrid 133

If you want to drop the clutch, pull the pin and start with a bang, there aren't many moves which offer such instant gratification. Assuming that you nail it, the rest of your session could be mere languid Sunday afternoon lawn management, and you'll still be grinning like a Cheshire Cat by the time you pull your keys from the ignition and stroll through your front door.

A couple of minor details that should be delivered before we proceed. Firstly, this is a move for offshore or cross offshore spots. If you're devilishly brave, foolish or extremely accomplished, it's vaguely possible with cross shore. However, under no circumstances should the light bulb spark with any inkling of onshore on the menu. Secondly deep water is what makes kiting both fun and safe, a sport of aerial gymnastics with a splashing consequence. Few spots have the luxury of deep water right next to dry sand, and as with everything, nothing is certain. If it's not deep enough to fail spectacularly, it's not deep enough!

Prerequisites would be a back roll, even better a front roll, although we'll come onto that shortly, and we can't ignore the fact that your jumping beach start should already be a thing of great beauty. For the sake of learning we're using a fairly offshore beach, with a tiny bias so that going left takes you out further, whilst going right gets you back. As such Karine will be jumping up and heading left,



although by the very nature of jumping with a kite, she will also fly considerably downwind when she gets airborne. With this in mind, here we go!

UAP Pic A

Universal Athletic Position, ready or first position as most of us might refer to a certain stance whilst preparing to receive a serve, make a tackle, kick a ball or lift a weight. Normally in these pages we focus on the approach, however seeing as we're starting from a standstill it seems sensible to bring things back down to earth. Your ready position should start with you putting your board down across the wind. With your kite at 12 o'clock you can then step into the straps. Now drift the kite back slowly behind you, in this case to just past 1 o'clock. If you pull a little on the bar you should feel some pull as the kite drops deeper into the window. Now wiggle your board so that you can comfortably lean gently against this pull.



Now your board is in the perfect position for the jump, probably slightly further back than dead across the wind. You can see that Karine has found her UAP, she's holding some power in the kite and has dropped her weight slightly to counterbalance it. To make sure she'll get enough air, she has trimmed her sweet spot away and out and feels to make sure that there is enough power for this move. Weight should be balanced equally between your feet and the kite should have some pull even at standstill.

Resist & Send Pic B

It's worth reminiscing back to your first beach start jumps. There's a pretty high chance that the first few times you moved your kite gingerly and not a lot happened. You're not moving, static on a beach, so there is no apparent wind in the kite. It's your job to produce it. The faster the kite moves the more power it will generate, so don't be shy, give it some beans!



That said you must make sure that you turn the bar on the sweet-spot. It's way too easy to yank the bar in as you steer the kite, which will only choke and stall it, resulting in all the pull coming from in front rather than above. In the picture, Karine is push-pulling the bar on the sweet-spot, watching as it rises, whilst keeping her weight back, resisting and adding tension in the lines, so that the kite turns quickly and heads up and across the window with purpose.

Drop & Breathe Pic C

If you send the kite correctly it will

turn and motor up and across. Whilst it moves it will start to pull harder, and as such you need to resist more, rocking back onto your heels. You also want the kite to go up towards 12 and the edge of the window, as this will give you maximum lift. To guarantee this, you need to let the kite breath as it powers, so feather the bar out as the kite rises. You also need to resist the upward pull of the kite by squatting down further. And finally, once the kite is moving up you can level the bar as you don't want it swinging wildly across to the other side. You can see that Karine has let the bar out,

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allowing the kite to climb towards 12, she's squatting with her weight on her heels to resist and she's levelled the bar. Game on.

The Different & Rather Crucial Bit Pic D

We can all agree that up to this point it's been a pretty standard Beach Start Jump, even if you've garnered some extra tips along the way. Now, however, you can rip up the blueprint and rebel with a rotation. Depending how your brain works will depend how you think through this next bit. Looking from the beach, or the water you will be performing a back rotation relative to the direction both the kite and you are going. Karine is definitely "doing" a back roll to the left. What's different is the catalyst for the rotation. When you're on the water the energy for our rotations comes from our back foot. Here as you take off, you'll be kicking off your front leg to initiate the rotation. For some, you may well consider this a front roll to the



right, but heading left, a stationary front roll transition. Whichever way you see it, the required mechanics are the same:) Once the kite reaches 12 you stamp off your front foot, kicking against the edge and upwind to keep tension on the lines, whilst throwing your head and shoulders towards the tail of the board, behind the bar, to get the rotation going, whilst pulling in on the bar to get maximum lift. This movement can feel counter intuitive as you're exploding up whilst throwing the rotation against your intended direction of travel. Once again, if you're on the edge of deep water with the wind blowing offshore you've got nothing to worry about. Here Karine has exploded up, adding height to the pull from the kite, whilst kicking herself towards the tail of the board, throwing her head and shoulders down and around behind the bar.

The Proof Pic E

Rather than being a separate part, we've added this to show the moment immediately after take-off.



Karine's position is the exact same as from her kick up and off the beach. Her back leg is extended, front leg is flexed, head and shoulders leaning towards the tail of the board, bar in and level. Nothing has changed, but she has already rotated significantly, she's up in the air and the kite is pulling her out from the beach. Perfect. As you leave the beach it is possible to get disorientated, as with any rotation, but more so here because you rotated against the flow of the kite. As such less is more. If you do nothing but freeze, the kite won't surprise you and you'll continue to rotate. Whereas if you concentrate on trying to work out where the kite is and where you are, it can become a bit of a lottery.

At Home Pic F

Once the initial surprise is over you should feel right at home. Bring your knees up to help continue the rotation, look over your shoulder to lead the rotation



G

and keep the bar level and in, to both keep the kite above you, and also to make sure that it pulls you downwind and away from the beach. It's here that you'll also appreciate your dynamic sending of the kite. Even though you have it above you, you generated a decent amount of forward inertia, so you will be travelling forwards as well. Karine is in full flight mode, knees up, bar in, head turned.

Bread & Butter Pic G

As you come around the ending should be something that you're well versed in. Looking over your shoulder you'll see where you're going and when you're coming around the rotation. As you drop you can lower your legs and dive the kite hard to pull yourself downwind for a soft landing and a well deserved claim. As expected Karine has dropped the undercarriage, is looking where she hopes to land and is diving the kite hard for a pleasant down wind, tail first landing.

Top Tips

Deep water and offshore wind! Seriously - you'll have oodles more confidence if it doesn't matter that you mess up.

As with all moves, get yourself accustomed to the conditions with one part before adding the next. Bang out a few beach jumps and once you're comfortable add the rotation.

Line tension and sweet spot mean everything. If you don't resist, you'll have no height and travel, but if you replace resistance with brute force and choke the kite, you'll gain nothing.

Have a look at the sequence and videos for the step by step and real time run throughs.



Common Problems

If you find that you're not getting enough height on your jump. Chances are that you've either trimmed too much, don't have enough power or are being too gentle with the send. That said if you're moving the kite well but you're not going up you might be trying to jump off your toes rather than with your heels against the edge. Make sure you drop your weight back.

If you're getting up and around but land unbalanced on your side, it's because the kite has travelled across the window to the other side. The good news is that you must be sending it. Make sure though that you level the bar before exploding up. This way the kite will slow considerably and stay more above you as you rotate. Watch Karine again and you'll see how she really stops the kite by levelling the bar before springing.

If you're not rotating, it's a sign that you're not using your front leg and you're going forwards with the kite rather than back and behind. As the kite moves up, picture your head back and around your centre line, which will require some effort if the kite slows at 12 o'clock.

Keystones

1. Set up a solid ready position
2. Decent send, push-pull
3. Bar out and level
4. Front leg kick, head and shoulders back
5. Bar in, look for landing and dive



FRONT ROLL TAIL GRAB BOARD OFF >

Kite - North Orbit 12m

Board - North Focus Hybrid 139

Here at CKPerformance we're massive fans of rotations. You learn one and immediately you're presented with an unfathomable plethora of new possibilities, combining your latest love of spinning with pretty much every other move you've already added into your ever expanding box of tricks. Here's another classic killer combo, mixing a single front roll with a tail grab board off.

Naturally having both these down pat already is a must, as the challenge here is finding a status quo between rotation speed and time in order to fit all the pieces together before landing smoothly. As well as heaps of practice, there are a few solid coaching pointers that will bring the finish line within sight more quickly. And the reason for the tail grab board off when the handle or Indy grab works so well with a rotation? No need for flexibility – if you can grab the tail, it's possible!

Approach Pic 1

You should approach this as per your jump or front roll. Decent solid edge, some speed, power in your kite, bar trimmed out to a comfortable position and tension on the lines. This all comes from your body position, bum low, legs out, board between you and the kite. Only add on for the board off is foot prep. Choices are to loosen your straps a tad, which will make getting the board both off and on simpler,



or to wiggle your feet back on the pads a touch, so that they're out of the straps a little. This is personal choice, but for learning loosening the straps will help no end as you're more likely to get the board back on without any hiccups. Your send needs to be aggressive. Height and time in the air are your friends, as is kite position. Hanging off one hand whilst man handling a twin tip with the other might well leave little cerebral power for kite flying skills. Sending it behind 12 o'clock will give you more room for error and will help slow your rotation. However, this does mean that regaining pull for your landing will be more challenging. Looking at Christian, he's edging in hard, sending the kite with conviction, basically committing to his take off. If you focus on his front foot, you can't see the toes as he's pulled his foot back in the straps to loosen it.



Take Off Pic 2

For comfort you want a floaty, lifty jump with a slow rotation. If you're travelling downwind and spinning fast, it won't fill you with confidence to start playing with your board and freeing your feet. To guarantee an upwards take off you need to make sure that you kick against your edge off your back heel. This keeps tension on the lines and limits drift as well as extending you up and generating more lift. As for the slow rotation, you still need the kick, but you use less head, leaning towards the nose of the board rather than throwing yourself forwards and looking over your shoulder. As soon as you've kicked, you'll want to pull the bar in and keep it level, so that the kite stops moving back. Here Christian has kicked off hard, his head is tilted forwards but nothing major and the bar is level with his front knee rising as per a normal front roll.



Hurry Pic C

When it comes to getting the grab there is no time to waste. The quicker you've got the board; the sooner your feet get the chance to breath and the more time you'll have to squeeze them back into the straps. This however is a challenge. By the very nature of sending the kite and extending up off your edge you will be working those abs in an effort to bring everything back together. Lift the knees up and go for the grab ASAP! This is all about trusting your take off and rotation. Christian is just

off the water, his knees are already up, his back hand is already off and he's looking at where he's going to grab. Time to get a wiggle on.

Slippers Off Pic D

As soon as you've got the grab slip your feet out. They should slide out simultaneously whilst you hold the board firm by the tail. This requires a locking of the wrist, and if you hold the board toe edge up, they'll come out more easily. Whilst all this is going on you still need support, so keep the bar in. At this point your kite should still be behind 12,

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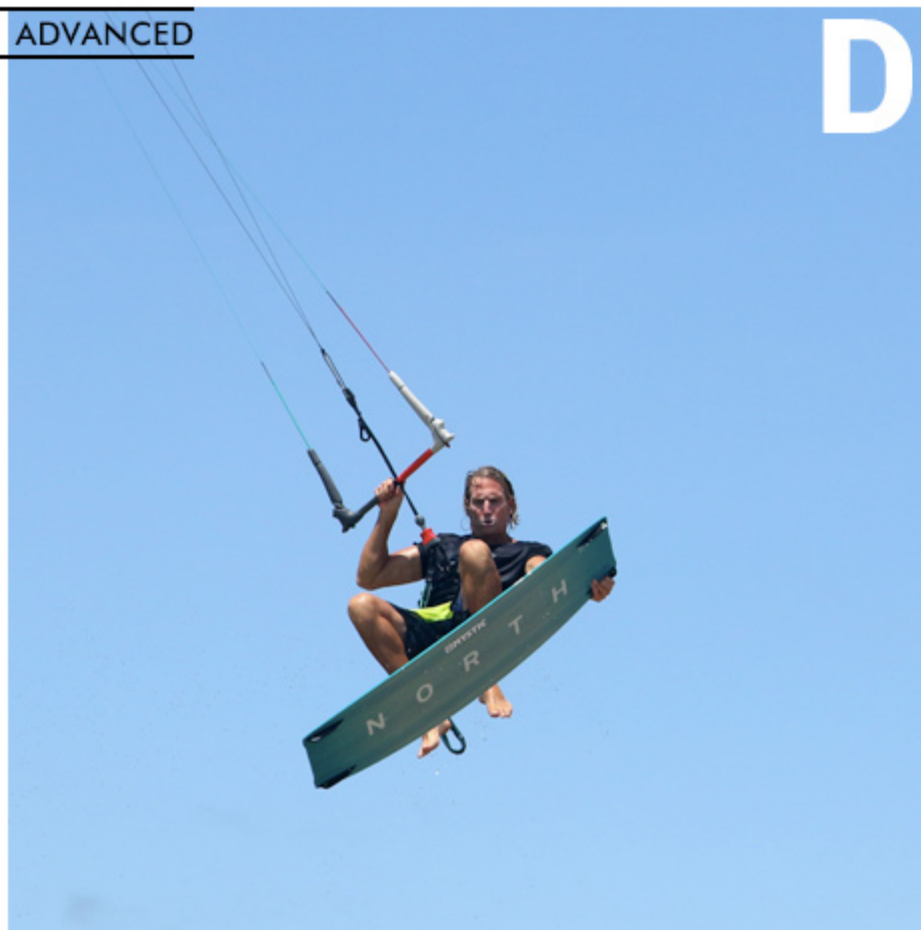
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D



by looking down at the board your rotation will slow even more. If you get the grab too late, you'll find it tricky to get the board off as you'll already be coming around and thinking ahead to landing. Christian is looking at his board, holding his wrist and arm stiff as he pulls both feet out together, whilst keeping tension on the lines with the bar in.

Make It Count Pic E

This next bit is utterly dependant on how quick you were at the beginning. If you're no slouch and get the board off sharpish, you'll have more time to flap your feet about and celebrate. If you're less of a speedster, the best you can hope for is a quick straightening of the legs to show that you mean it. You still need to keep the bar in for support. At this time you may feel

E



the kite moving forward. If you do you can push the bar out which will stop it moving too far. The negative however is that you'll descend more quickly. At the same time try and keep your arm out to the side where it was, as this way the board will stay put in the best place to get your pinkies back in. In the photo Christian has straightened his legs, but he's in a rush (not the world's fastest by any means). Gravity has pulled the nose of the board down but he keeps his arm and the board out where it started. Kite face optional.

Front Foot First Pic F

And this is the beauty of the tail grab board off variant. Absolutely no flexibility required. Just good eyesight if you've got long legs! Hold the board up

F



and slide your front foot into the strap. The only negative here is that if your straps are tight you can't really push the front foot in snug, but as long as it hooks under the strap, you'll be fine. Do beware of the kite as this is the moment that you can become unstuck. If you leave it too far behind you'll never get it back over for landing, but if it drifts too far forwards you're toast. Christian is watching his front foot, guiding it in. You can see that he's let the bar out as he can feel the kite flying forwards and pulling him slightly.

Back Foot & Dive Pic G

Once your front foot is secure, lift both your legs and slide your back foot in. As you do this you'll be dropping down, so you'll need to get some support



back from the kite. You want it diving down through the window, so give a hefty pull on the bar for tension and crank your wrist to get the kite diving. This will pull you downwind for a more comfortable landing and hopefully give you a bit of extra lift and therefore time to drop your legs and get the board underneath you. Christian has his back foot in, the bar pulled in and is diving the kite, which should all add up to a makeable landing...

Top Tips

It may sound obvious, but time is your friend when learning this. Even if you're a competent front roller and board offer, you may still be surprised at how quickly you end up ready to come down without even having had the opportunity to get the board off.

As such a floaty larger kite with slow things down. In addition, really work on the slowest front rotation possible. It's preferable to not get around than spin too fast, as you can always add the last bit once you get the rest polished.

And remember to keep the kite behind you as this will also help stall your rotation. Yet again, it may mean dropping down quick and not landing it, but adding a hefty dive once you've nailed the timing won't be too hard.

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

Common Problems

We've pretty much covered everything already. Your nemeses are getting too extended,



rotating too quickly, flying the kite forward to much, as well as leaving it behind you. Hopefully the board off and eventually on should be the easy bits!

Keystones

1. Good edge and solid send
2. Kick hard and up, but gentle throw
3. Knees up and grab quick
4. Feet out together with kite behind
5. Front foot first, then back foot and heavy dive



INVERTED GRABBED DOUBLE BLT >

Kite - North Orbit 12m

Board - North Atmos Carbon 138

This one harks back to the alumni of Space Monkeys and all those on the tour of that era. Changing direction was still cool, and razzing it up, whether bouncing off a beach like Martin in Los Roques, or adding multiple rotations and board offs to claim a pair of world titles as per Mr Shinn was definitely a sign of substance. And what's more, as we've so often repeated in these pages, transitions are both fun and functional. So, if it's not blowing 40 knots and you're not obsessed with adding another 30cm, how about spending your time wisely and adding this peach to your repertoire.

Fortunately the name is extremely descriptive, so no prizes for guessing what's involved. However, piecing them together in the correct order should help you nail this. And who better qualified to demonstrate this with more than a pocketful of style other than Heliarde.

Approach Pic A

Any transition requires a bit less speed than a standard jump as you need to come back the other way. However, you'll need to find a balance here, because you still need enough height and sufficient time to fit all the bits in. What you're looking for is enough control on take-off to reward you with more up and less travel, which gives you time for the move yet still offers you a makeable landing the other way.



Come in with power but take some speed off with a decent edge. Give the kite a good short sharp send so that you generate lift without the kite moving too far back in the window. Here Heliarde comes in with tension but not too much speed, he gives the kite a decent send and lets the bar follow the sweet spot out to make sure that he gets more lift and less travel.

Take-Off, The Kick Pic B

Being a double rotation, you will need to turn quicker. As such you can afford to carve harder into your take-off and also use your head more than you would for a single. To guarantee control of your rotation and jump, you still need to kick up and round off your back leg, extending towards the kite. It's so tempting to squash down over your back leg to turn quickly, but this will result in an uncontrollable spin, so KICK.



It's also imperative that you pull the bar in level once you've kicked, to stop the kite above you, offering maximum float and confidence. You can see that Heliarde has carved round into his back roll to make sure he gets enough rotation for the double, and even more importantly he is full extended on take-off because he has kicked up into the move.

Number 1 Pic C

Rotation number one is your set up roll. You won't be doing much other than anticipating the end of the rotation if your take off was perfection, but just in case it wasn't, no. 1 gives you a chance to make amends and get properly comfy for the next one. As you're still upright during the first one, it gives you the perfect opportunity to make sure that the kite is above you at 12 o'clock and that your bar is level.



If everything is right now, then it won't be such a leap of faith to invert and grab during the second instalment. In the photo you can see that Heliarde is coming around, he hasn't yet brought his knees up (he'll need them shortly), and he's just hanging, looking over his front shoulder to see where he's going, comfortably waiting to finish his first rotation. Nothing more, but equally,

Time To Get Busy Pic D

As soon as you start your second rotation it's time to get inverted.

Keeping your elbows in close to act as a fulcrum point you can throw your head back whilst lifting your knees towards the bar. In this position as your knees rise and head tilts back, you'll see saw back and the board will lift. Timing wise you should wait to make sure that your going into number two, as once you invert your rotation will slow. If you start early you run the risk of killing the second rotation completely. It's clear to see how Heliarde is fulcruming about his elbows.

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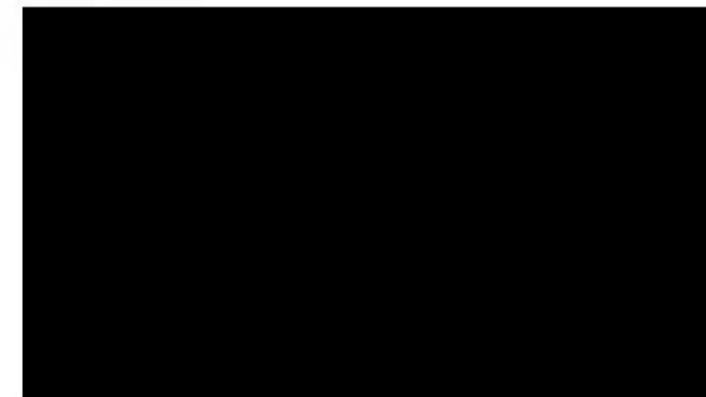
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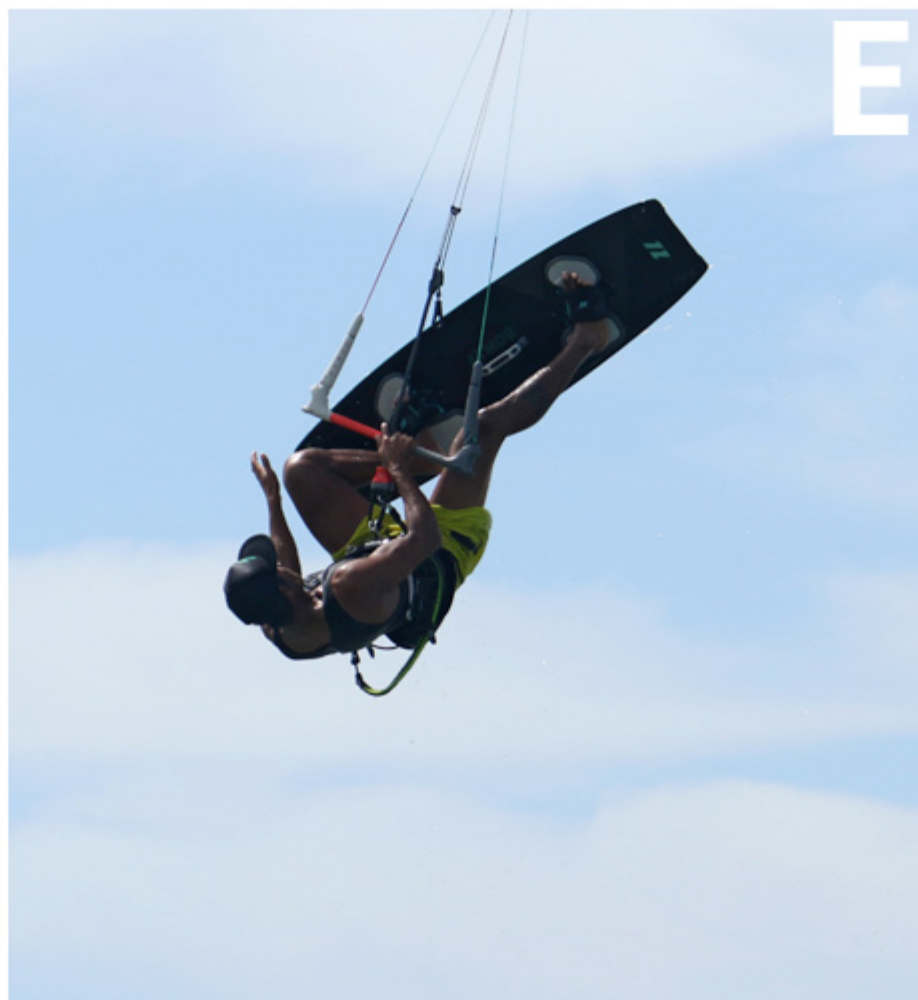




If your bar is out on straight arms, you'll find it difficult to invert.

Bone It Pic E

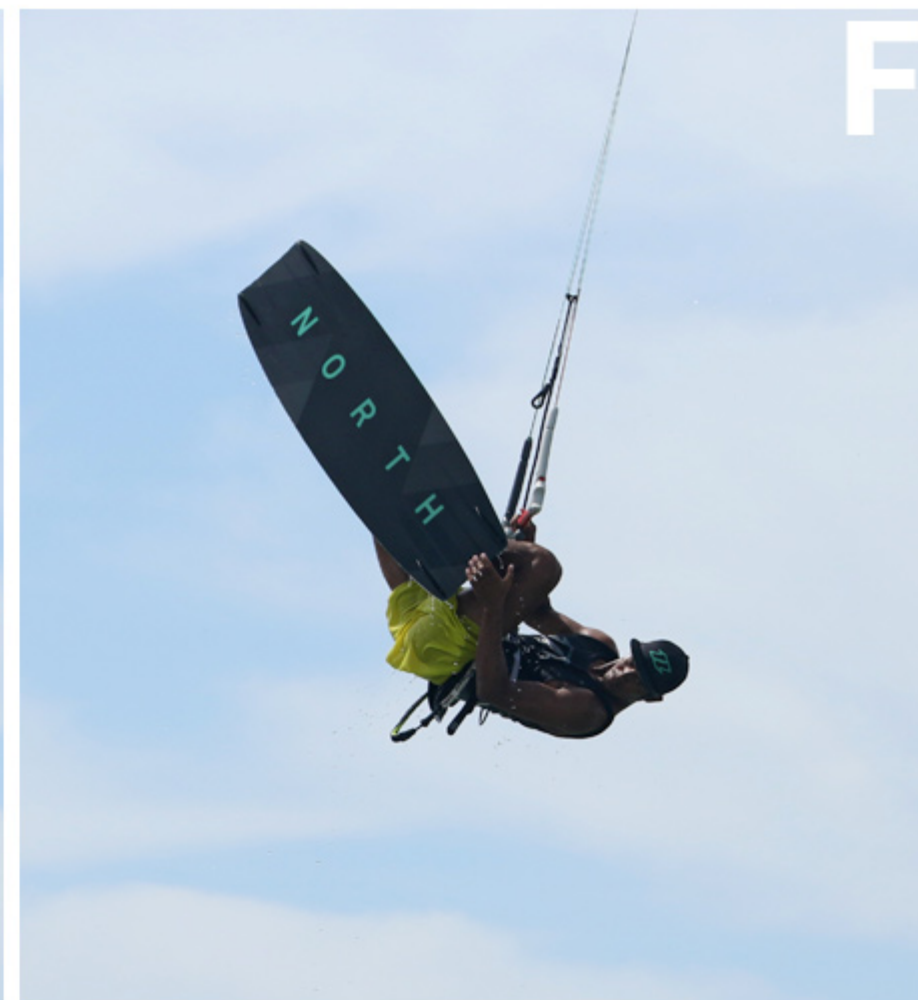
As your board starts to rise and you feel the inversion it's time to get the grab on. Simplest and most stylish way to reach your board is to bone it out. Pushing and extending your front leg out whilst pulling your back knee in will bring the board close and within easy reaching distance, so that you won't be clumsily groping for it. At the same time you can release what was your front hand, the one that you don't need for the landing dive. You can see Heliarde extending his front leg whilst tucking his back knee up into his chest. If you don't have to reach for the board, you're



far less likely to pull on the bar for support.

The Money Shot Pic F

The culmination of all the previous points. Once you've got the grab try and hold it for as long as possible. It won't be forever as this is a quick move, but try and make it count. This is when your take off and kite positioning will really come into play. If the kite is above you and you're elevating up rather than travelling along you'll feel confident, balanced and relaxed. Time to shine, matching board and cap not obligatory! Main points to garner from this image are that even in the inverted grab, Heliarde's bar is still level, his head is still looking over his shoulder to see where he's going and it's a lovely looking move.



The Landing Pic G

Once you start to descend it's a matter of setting up for a soft touch down. Looking where you expect to land you can judge when to release the grab, drop your legs and dive your kite. As the inversion will have slowed your rotation, you're quite likely to be coming out of this without your board being fully round. A decent dive will help finish the rotation and pull you downwind, giving you some forward momentum to soften the impact. Here Heliarde has spotted the Heli-Pad and is giving the kite a decent dive. As it pulls, he'll allow his legs and board to follow his hips downwind for a decent reception.



G

Top Tips

Before even contemplating the grab and inversion you should work out your take off for that elevator, not traveller jump. Knowing how fast to come in and what kite send to use will instil a greater confidence in the movements required and give you a much better sense of spatial awareness once you go upside down.

If you only concentrate on one thing post take-off, let it be kite position. As long as your kite is above you, you'll float down regardless of what else happens. Drifting it whilst inverting can lead to a less comfortable conclusion.

Check out the sequence and videos for a real time refresher.

Common Problems

If you feel that your kite is flying too far past 12 o'clock on take off. Two main causes here. First one is the soft back leg, if you compress rather than kick, it doesn't matter how well you control your kite it will fly back as you initiate your rotation. Exploding and kicking up is essential. The second cause is drifting the kite rather than sending it. If you drift it doesn't generate the power until it's gone way past 12. Send it but for a short time and the kite won't move as much but it'll generate the lift you're looking for.

Not completing the rotation. Inverting too early. As you invert, you'll look up and hopefully stall the rotation, but if you do this too early, you'll kill it.



Anticipate the 2nd roll and go as you begin it. Once you have the grab look over your front shoulder to spot your landing.

Landing on your back or getting around but no support. This is a matter of the kite drifting back to the new side of the window as you're busy with the move and often as you're holding the bar for support during the grab. Make sure that the kite is right before

inverting. With the bar level when you know where the horizon is it'll be easier to keep it there. If you invert with the kite already moving off, you're more likely to lose awareness.

Keystones

1. Control speed, Short Sharp Send
2. Carve and Kick

3. Hang and kite at 12
4. Elbows in, invert, Bone and Grab
5. Release and hefty dive





FORTALEZA



MANCORA



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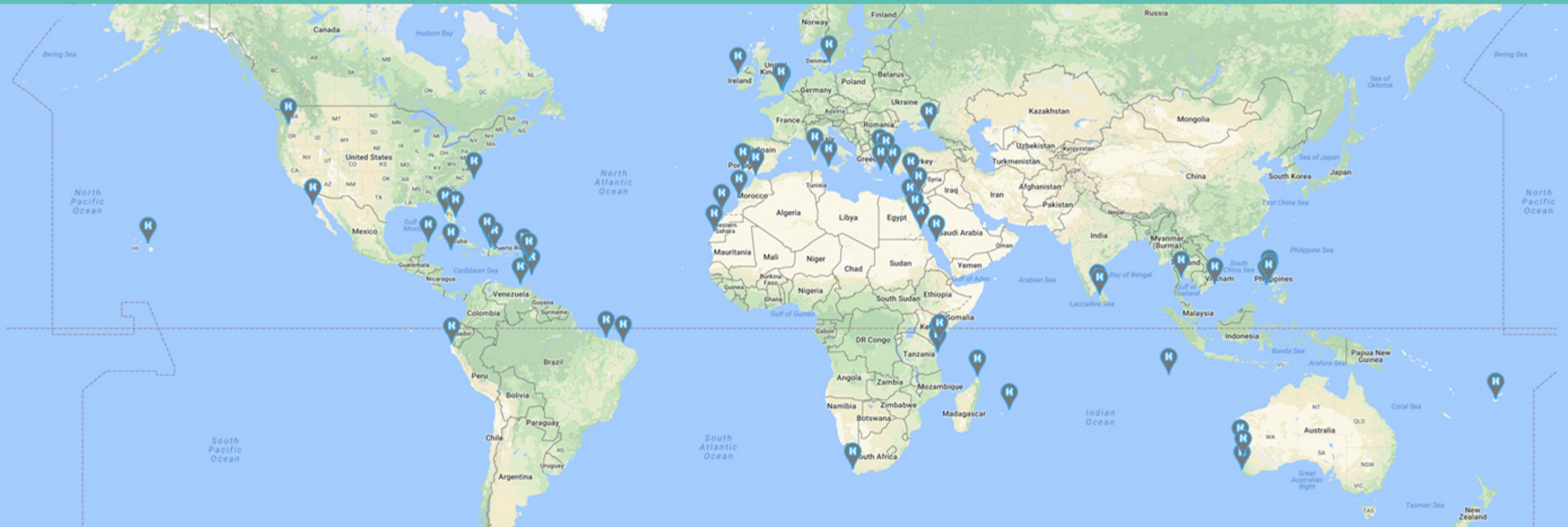
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When you think of the number 10, you think of success, and this year, the Red Bull Lighthouse to Leighton celebrated its tenth consecutive year in the kiteboarding mecca known as Western Australia. Famed as a Southern Hemisphere strong-wind destination for freestylers (Woodies and The Pond), foilers (Swan River and Jervis Bay) and big wave kiteboarders (Margaret River region, Lancelin and all of the North West of this huge state), WA has it all!

TEN YEARS

OF THE RED BULL LIGHTHOUSE
TO LEIGHTON KITE RACE

Since 2010, Tim Turner has successfully staged the best open-to-all kiteboarding race in the southern hemisphere, and arguably the world. This epic adventure started out with just 60 racers. The first edition of the race, which Tim organised, competed in on a twintip, and finished 19th in 33:01 minutes, while Alex Caizerges, who came in 1st finished the race in 24:34 minutes. Interestingly though, in 2019, Lincoln Sullivan finished 3rd overall as the fastest non-foil board in 23:22 minutes; times are changing and that being said, it is the advent of foil boards and kites that have rocketed the crossing time.

The 2nd and 3rd edition (2011 and 2012) were both homegrown Western Australia affairs for Dale Stanton and Johnno Keys, respectively. Dale had never missed a crossing, and Johnno Keys was a stalwart of the WA kite racing community.

The 4th edition in 2013 of the Lighthouse to Leighton, was incorporated into the Kite Racing Oceanics festival; a course racing spectacular event off the coast of Leighton. Most days hit 35°C with just a 16-knot coastal breeze. Sometimes it just gets too hot for the famed Fremantle Doctor to blow in Perth; however, the light winds didn't stop the racers. This was the year that German-born-Australian-living, Marvin Baumeister, took line honours with Riccardo Leccese, and Australian sailing World Champion, Torvar Mirsky picking up the podium placings.

Torvar, being the first winner of the Marc Sprod Memorial Trophy (in memory of Marc Sprod who passed away in a tragic kiteboarding accident) This trophy was inaugurated to remember Marc, to honour his life, to recognise that the competition had increased notably, and that it was going to be harder for a 'local' to win outright the line honours.

“SOMETIMES IT JUST GETS TOO HOT FOR THE FAMED FREMANTLE DOCTOR TO BLOW IN PERTH; HOWEVER, THE LIGHT WINDS DIDN'T STOP THE RACERS.”



PHOTO RICK PRYCE



“ ONE MINUTE OLLY WAS KILLING IT ON HIS FOIL BOARD, AND THEN IT JUST STOPPED, IT WAS LIKE NOTHING I'D EVER SEEN BEFORE! ”

In 2014, Olly Bridge claimed the title from Marvin Baumeister (the 2013 winner) and Steph Bridge, multiple World Champion, took line honours for the second year in a row.

Saturday 5th December 2015, race day, and also the coldest December day on record in Perth! It wasn't so much the cold, it was

more the overall weather and the forecast. The City of Perth cancelled their Christmas Pageant; a community event and parade that attracts routinely 200,000 people.

To our surprise, what we got was a strong sea breeze, to begin with until about 2 km to go for leader Olly Bridge, a bank of cloud formed over Leighton Beach and shut down the wind for about 10 minutes.

"I remember it as if it was yesterday," said Tim Turner "one minute Olly was killing it on his foil board, and then it just stopped, it was like

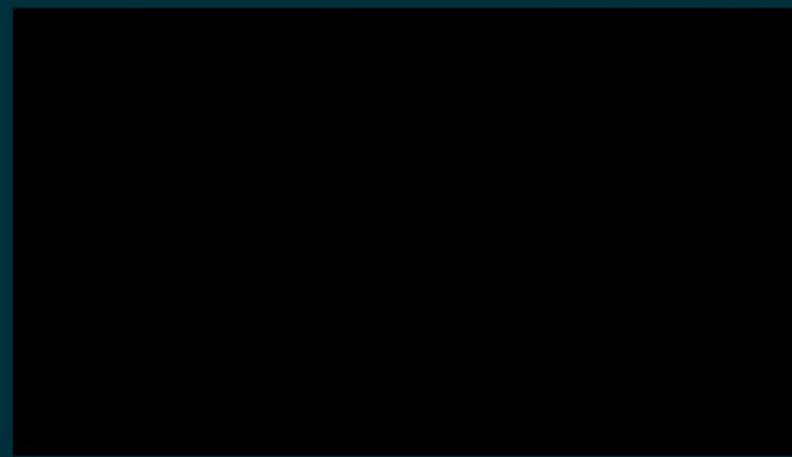
nothing I'd ever seen before! The winds in Perth are usually consistent, and once the sea breeze is in, it's like clockwork. However, this wind wasn't what you would call the 'normal' sea breeze associated with Perth."

What happened next was like a slow-moving kite horror show! Kites heading into an abyss of no wind, right on the finish line. So, with about 20 of the leading kites in the water, what was to happen next? Well, the wind returned, and the middle to back of the fleet started to arrive, with only the waterlogged foil kites facing difficulties to get going again. A delighted and surprised 'middle marker' kiteboarder, Peter Mcewen, took line honours in 2015!



PHOTO PETA NORTH

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2016 race was a return to the norm and in fact, the best ever assembled fleet, certainly in terms of who was on the podium. Nico Parlier blitzed the field, followed by Florian Gruber and Florian Trittel close behind in third. The question being asked that day though was "Where was Olly Bridge?" You'd think it was an America's Cup if we told you his winged keel had fallen off at the start (Yes, that's precisely what happened) The locals were quick to jump to his rescue in the next 48 hours and returned with a boat and dive tanks and retrieved his foil. No salvage rights to be contested!

"THE BEST EVER ASSEMBLED FLEET, CERTAINLY IN TERMS OF WHO WAS ON THE PODIUM."



“ 2017 WAS THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY DOUBLE! STEPH BRIDGE AND OLLY BRIDGE BOTH CAME IN 1ST. ”

PHOTO GORDON PETTIGREW



The female fleet was enjoying an unbeaten run too with Russian Elena Kalinea pushing Steph Bridge harder than she had been used to in the L2L, yet still coming out on top – both Steph and Elena on foil setups.

That same year was also a year of kiteboarding royalty, with Aaron Hadlow joining the Lighthouse to Leighton action and taking line honours, wearing boots and in a very respectable time of 23:00 minutes. Is there no end to that man's talents?

2017 was the year of the family double! Steph Bridge and Ollly Bridge both came in 1st. Ollly wanted the trophy back, having had two disappointing years in 2015 and 2016 through no real fault of his own, just a bit of bad luck.

Aaron was also back in 2017 to defend his L2L title, and being a Red Bull athlete, it would have been a great back to back double. However, the lighter breezes on the day and a smaller kite allowed a powered-up Jordan Girdis (who had borrowed the Race Directors promotional Red Bull, long waterline, carbon fibre Nomad Wave twintip board; rumoured to be super-fast), to nudge the multiple World Champion to second place, only by 30 seconds! Not often do you see Aaron being beaten and the pay off for Jordan, who made a strategic change to race twintip rather than foil board was rewarded.

2018 was time for a different Bridge to pick up the silverware, or in the case of the Red Bull Lighthouse to Leighton, unique, custom trophy! Guy Bridge who was enjoying a great year, as European Champion, Vice World Champion and overall winner of the HydroFoil Pro Tour. Locals Alty Frisby and Mani Biscopps rounded out the male podium and WA stalwart of the kiting community, Claire May even surprised herself to win the Foil/Race category in the female division.

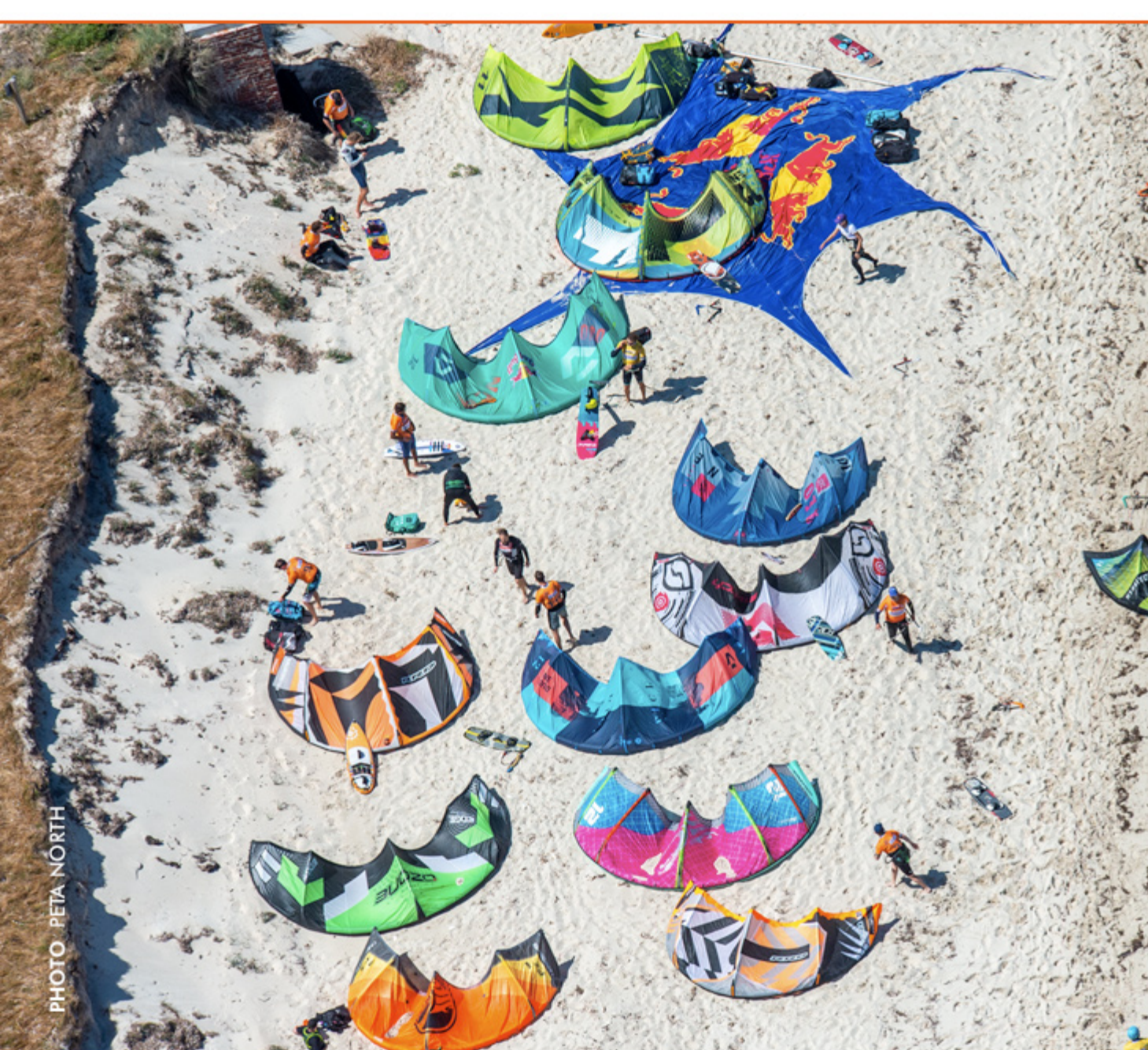


PHOTO: PETA NORTH

And so, 2019 arrived! Year 10. Where did the last decade go? To be consistent with the consecutive staging of the race, organisers selected to use the first reserve day and stage the race on Sunday, with the wind gods selecting that Saturday was not to be, with rain and wind from a pure Westerly direction not conducive to staging the race successfully.

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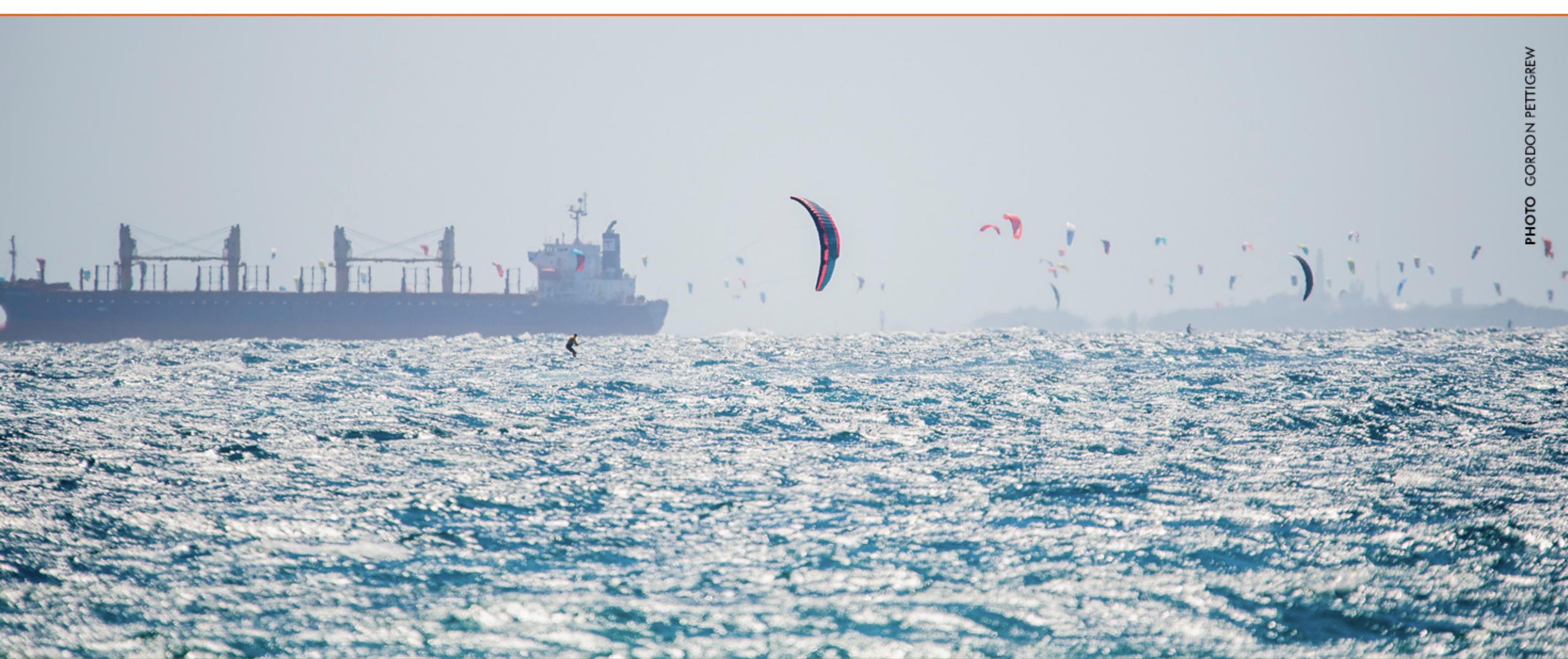


PHOTO GORDON PETTIGREW

“OLLY BRIDGE AND JEAN DE FALBAIRE LED THE 145 STRONG FLEET HOME IN STYLE, BOTH ON FOILS”

"Over the years of staging the race, I certainly have become more risk-averse. That's not to say we weren't serious in the early days, we were, totally. However, with increasing numbers of riders racing across Gage Roads, more things could go wrong

beyond my control. All I can do is make a good decision with the available weather data" said Tim. "This year, in fact, we had the good fortune to be invited into the Bureau of Meteorology as one of the racers is a meteorologist. Access to that service was awesome and made a tough decision to shift to the following day so much more pain-free," he added.

Olly Bridge and Jean De Falbaire led the 145 strong fleet home in style, both on foils and

Lincoln Sullivan, a fast local WA local rounding out the podium on a Team Venta course board with weed slicing fins. Lincoln only trailed Jean by 11 seconds which goes to show that the Red Bull L2L can be anyone's race on any board just depending on conditions.

To secure his win, #3 Olly needed to jump clear and remove weed from his foil on multiple occasions – this was a challenge resulted in him not setting a new record time, despite the strong South West wind of 23 to 25 knots, on reflection these were strongest wind conditions the race has been staged in.



Additional sponsorship from GoPro, Mrs Macs and Action Sports WA supported the race in 2019 and funded an entry-level tracking where competitors used their mobile phones to be followed at <https://www.georacing.com/events/?Red+Bull+Lighthouse+to+Leighton/id/101869>.

In 2020, the plan will be to provide every competitor with their own GPS enabled chip to take the tracking to offer up one notch further, and allow people on the beach to see the race unfold before it gets into view!

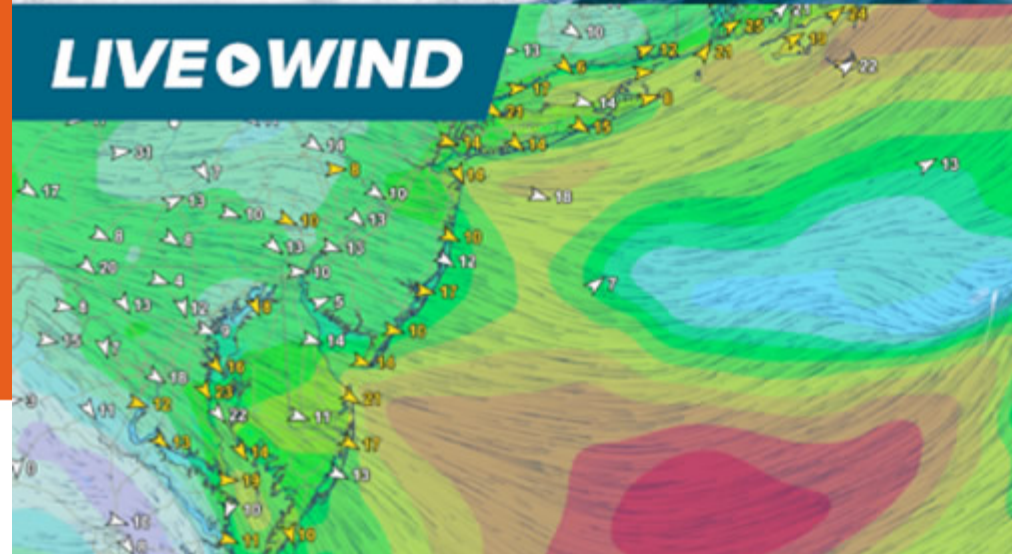
To the next decade! Chapeau to everyone who has been involved in the race as either competitor, volunteer or official. I know that Tim is very proud of what he has achieved since the first edition.

“ THE PLAN WILL BE TO PROVIDE EVERY COMPETITOR WITH THEIR OWN GPS ENABLED CHIP ”



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**“ HEAD OVER TO PERTH TO ENJOY WHAT IS A TRULY
UNIQUE, WELL-RUN EVENT IN THE GLOBAL
KITEBOARDING CALENDAR. ”**



There are many, many moving parts to the race, from getting 150 competitors to a somewhat remote island, 19 kilometres off of the mainland of Australia - not to mention all their kit, and then getting them safely back again. I know he sleeps soundly once everyone is accounted for and is back at the host yacht club; Fremantle Sailing Club and enjoying a cold Red Bull, likely with a double vodka!

As media partners for the last few years, I encourage and extend the warm invitation to experienced kiteboarders from around the world to head over to Perth to enjoy what is a truly unique, well-run event in the global kiteboarding calendar. I regrettably missed the 2019 race but will be back in full force for 2020. It's easily one of the best events on the calendar and anyone can enter!

MENS OVERALL & MENS FOIL

- 1 Olly Bridge (Devon, UK) 21:08
- 2 Jean De Falbaire (Mauritius) 23:11
- 3 Lincoln Sullivan (Bicton, WA) 23:22

MENS TWINTIP

- 1 Daniel Anderson (Coolbellup, WA) 25:33
- 2 Charlie Wise (Cottesloe, WA) 26:43
- 3 Jason Lewis (Safety Bay) 27:25

WOMENS FOIL

- 1 Breiana Whitehead (Townsville Qld) 28:07
- 2 Natalie Broughton (Palmyra, WA) 40:25
- 3 Claire May (Trigg, WA) 40:28

WOMENS TWINTIP

- 1 Rachael Hughes (Shoalwater, WA) 32:09
- 2 Rebecca Bury (North Fremantle WA) 35:04
- 3 Megan Barnett (Devon, UK) 35:22

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THE INTERVIEW

CRAIG CUNNINGHAM

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTO XANDER RAIH

Park shredder and Duotone International Rider, Craig Cunningham, shares his story from where and how it all began in Port Dover, Ontario to moving to Hood River, and ending up living on the shores of Peniche, Portugal!



Hey Craig, it's great to catch up, finally! Could you tell us a little bit about yourself, your family, and what it was like growing up in Port Dover? How did you first get introduced to kiteboarding?

Thanks for having me! I grew up in a small town in Southern Canada called Port Dover with a very supportive family and an interesting group of friends! For the most part of my early years, I played many teams sports but primarily focussed on hockey, but that was until I started skateboarding. I quickly lost interest in the whole jock-scene and just wanted to skateboard and snowboard instead. I also started wakeboarding, but since I didn't have access to a proper boat, I wasn't able to go out that often. One day, I noticed a few guys kiteboarding at our local beach, and that's when and where it all began!

How did you end up in Oregon and when did you start park riding? What was the local scene like back when you started?

As I was already hitting rails skateboarding, wakeboarding and winching, as soon as I started kiteboarding, it was only a matter of time that I wanted to start park riding! As soon as I began riding upwind, I started popping rails on the water. I ended up spending most of my summers at Hood River, I had a solid group of friends who were all pushing park riding over there at the time, so it only made sense to make it my home base!

" AS SOON AS I STARTED KITEBOARDING, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME THAT I WANTED TO START PARK RIDING! "





After the end of an epic run of the Wind Voyagers Triple-S event, what's your take on the current state of park riding and what's next, in your opinion?

Honestly, the best riding doesn't happen during competitions; it all happens in the videos! With the current level of park riding and the new feature we have access to, I think 2020 is going to be pretty exciting!

" I THINK 2020 IS GOING TO BE PRETTY EXCITING! "

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" I COULDN'T BE MORE HAPPY AND GRATEFUL FOR WHERE I'M AT AND WHAT I'M DOING RIGHT NOW. "



The feature we (Duotone) just built in Hatteras is just waiting for shredders like Noè Font, Ewan Jaspan, Alex Maes and all the OG's to take some new lines that just weren't possible in the past. It's going to be interesting to watch, and as the saying goes "when one door closes another one opens". It's a bummer to lose Triple-S, but I'm sure it will pave the way for other opportunities.

You play a big role behind the scenes with the Duotone team, what are your responsibilities as International Team Manager, and what are the pros and cons of the job?

I do a lot of the creative direction on our non-product

focused marketing. I look at it like a character development position, wherewith my knowledge of the industry, I can help get the best out of our team and make sure everything is running as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The cons are spending more time behind a screen than I'd like, but the pros far outweigh the cons!

Right now, I'm only working on projects I'm passionate about! I still get to travel a lot, and most of the time I can work remotely, so really, I couldn't be more happy and grateful for Boards & More group and my bosses Tommy (Kaiser) and Till (Eberle) for trusting in me to

help out and giving me the opportunity to be doing what I'm doing right now.

You've worked your way up from pro rider to various roles, how did you make that happen and was it planned?

Becoming a pro rider was never planned! I had actually just finished school for Power Engineering when I got my first contract with Liquid Force. It brought me into a new world aka "the Bubble" and finding a spot I thought I could excel in within the brand, was definitely planned to extend my time in the bubble.

“ MY FAVOURITE THING TO DO IS
BRAINSTORM IDEAS WITH EVERYONE
AND WORK ON NEW CONCEPTS
FOR EVERYTHING ”



From day one with Duotone (North at the time), I was involved in various projects and photoshoots. I eventually got more and more responsibility and it just made sense to take it on fulltime. At the same time, I was starting to lose motivation for riding and even though I just had a top 5 KPL ranking, I got injured shooting 'Goodbye, Hello' with Noè by being pretty careless. I was injured, we were about to start to process of rebranding, and the timing just seemed to make sense, and it was the perfect way to keep me focused throughout most of 2018 and 2019. It was fantastic to come into this position during the rebranding, and to get to influence the direction of the "new brand" so much. Working so closely with the office team in Munich on the launch and the 2019 campaign was one of the most exciting projects I had ever had the chance to be involved with.

If you look back in sports and especially boardsports, a rebranding like this was unprecedented - I couldn't believe we pulled off in one year!

You've got an eye for design and a knack for inspiring other team riders, how do you keep them motivated?

I just put ideas out there and see what people think and I try not to be a micromanager or a boss of any sort, more of a tool to support the team throughout their journey. My favourite thing to do is brainstorm ideas with everyone and work on new concepts for everything and anything between. It's not hard to keep them motivated, they are all hungry, and they all know that there are heaps of kids who want their jobs! Working with riders like Noè, Mika, Valentin etc. and seeing them succeed is just as rewarding, if not more, than doing things for me these days. It sounds cliché, but the team at Duotone is like a family, and I look at these guys as little brothers and sisters!



We tend to see your name in most of Duotone's video credits, how did you become a Creative Director, and what do you enjoy most about it? If given a choice, would you rather be in front of the lens or behind it?

Well, we have lots of people behind the scenes working on projects. Tom Kaiser, Philipp Becker, Carlos Guzman and Patrick Dudek do most of the product shoots, and episodes, Tom Court, Noè Font, Lukas Salomon and I do some of the other stuff. We have such a cool team to work with, and I'm absolutely frothing on some of the projects we have in the pipes for 2020!

" I'M ABSOLUTELY FROTHING ON SOME OF THE PROJECTS WE HAVE IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2020! "



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RIDER ROSS DILLON PLAYER
PHOTO STEPHEN WHITESSELL

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PHOTO LUKAS STILLER

“ PEOPLE LIKE AIRTON, MIKA AND VALENTIN WIN WORLD TITLES BECAUSE THEY LOVE TO KITEBOARD, PERIOD. ”

As far as getting in front of the lens or on the other side of things, I'll still be doing both as long as I can. It's definitely more behind-the-scenes, dealing with all the moving parts and executing projects but I have a couple more video projects I want to work on this year.

You guys recently hosted a 'Duotone Grom search' in Brazil, if a young talented rider expressed interest in becoming a pro rider, what advice would you give them and how could you, as Duotone Brand Manager, help them fulfil their dreams?

The main thing is to have fun! If you feel like you

need to train and aren't riding because you love it, hard to say, but you probably won't go far. People like Airtton, Mika and Valentin win World Titles because they love to kiteboard, period. So, don't worry about sponsors when you just landed a raley to blind, have fun with your friends, develop a crew, push each other, shoot videos, compete if that's what you're into but most importantly have fun and do it because you love it!

You must be incredibly proud of Valentin Rodrigues and Mikaili Sol; they killed it this year, and they're both so young! What is their secret?!

This is precisely what I meant above; they love to kiteboard! And yes, I'm so hyped on these two! Mika continues to impress me in all aspects of sport and to be honest, I still can't believe Valentin is the World Champion. This time last year, we were talking about if he wanted to do the full tour and if he was capable of all the travelling? He said he wanted to do it, and I thought we could work with him, and maybe in 2 or 3 years he would have shot! To see him exceed every single expectation from his family and us and to pull through and claim the World Title win this year in Cumbucco; it meant a lot too many different people.



I'm so proud of him, and it's great to watch him learning off the water as quickly as he is learning on the water. Can you imagine how quickly his life has changed in the last 12 months? It's insane!

You recently moved to Portugal; it must be quite the change! What instigated the move, and what it's like living on the other side of the world?!

It's so rad, I'm so stoked to be in Peniche! Today, for example, I worked 8 hours, surfed twice, ate loads of good food and tomorrow it looks like the lagoon will be working, so I'll go shred with Christophe (Tack) and our little-but-growing crew out here.

" CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW QUICKLY HIS LIFE HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS? IT'S INSANE! "



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“PENICHE WAS THE PERFECT CHOICE AND A BIT MORE OFF THE BEATEN PATH AS FAR AS THE KITE SCENE GOES.”



Basically, I was getting over living in Hood River because of the time difference with Germany. I also do a lot of Creative Direction work and Athlete Management for an action sports agency called Makulo that is based there in Germany as well, so coordinating with two companies in Europe, while working remotely from the west coast of the US was not ideal! Working remotely, you should be able to choose when you work and play a bit, but the time difference was forcing really early and late hours. While on the other side of things, the Oregon winters aren't far off from the ones I grew up in Canada. So, I knew I wanted to be somewhere in Europe and somewhere warm but still with seasons. It came down to Tarifa or a few spots in Portugal, but since I want to surf and ride my bike a lot, plus still kite as much as possible, Peniche was the perfect choice and a bit more off the beaten path as far as the kite scene goes.

Are there any exciting new projects in the pipeline that you'd like to share with us?

We have a new brand video coming out soon that I'm hyped about, but the thing I can't wait to drop is a video we worked on with Lidewij Hartog and the Duotone Surf Team in Mauritius. I usually spend more time with the twin tippers, but I have to say, we had a mental trip, and I think what's going to come out of it should be a little different than most of what you see traditionally in kitesurfing.

Thanks, Craig for the interview! We wish you the best of luck for 2020!

Cheers guys, stay stoked!



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RIDER SENSİ GRAVES
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

LIGHTROOM

IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR WHY ALBY RONDINA MADE SICILY HIS HOME BASE!
PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY

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

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LIGHTROOM

STEVEN AKKERSDIJK GETTING INVERTED IN VIENTO STATE PARK, OREGON, USA
PHOTO JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD



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GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO LOSING TRACK OF TIME ON TAIBA LAGOON, BRAZIL
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

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LIGHTROOM

PABLO AMORES GETTING WILD IN CAPE VERDE.
PHOTO GABRIELE RUMBOLO

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LIGHTROOM

DAVID TONIQUAN SCORING GOLD IN TSIMARI, GREECE
PHOTO SAMUEL CÁRDENAS



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LIGHTROOM

KILLER SESSION FOR ALBY RONDINA AT FLAG BEACH, FUERTEVENTURA.
PHOTO SIMONA TIRONE/JOHANNES WITTMANN



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LIGHTROOM



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3200 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL IN PIZ SURGONDA, SWITZERLAND, BLUE SKIES,
WITH A STUNNING VIEW OF THE SWISS ALPS, TIMI ZEHNDER SENDS THIS KITELOOP!
PHOTO LUKAS PITSCHE

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LIGHTROOM

MAXI GOMEZ FULLY COMPOSED IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO SAMUEL CÁRDENAS



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LIGHTROOM

STIG HOEFNAGEL POWERED UP AND MAKING THE LAST HOUR OF LIGHT WELL WORTH IT!
PHOTO TOM SEAGER

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LIGHTROOM

POSITO MARTINEZ WOWING THE CROWDS IN CAPE TOWN AT THE RED BULL KING OF THE AIR
PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



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JESSE RICHMAN ON HIS WAY TO VICTORY AT THE RED BULL KING OF THE AIR IN CAPE TOWN!
PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



AARON HADLOW, NICK JACOBSEN AND JESSE RICHMAN TAKE THE PODIUM OUT AT THE KING OF THE AIR IN CAPE TOWN!
PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY/RED BULL CONTENT POOL

ROUND 1

1st advance to round 2, 2nd & 3rd advance to round 2

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 1	1
2	HEAT 1	2
3	HEAT 1	3
4	HEAT 2	1
5	HEAT 2	2
6	HEAT 2	3
7	HEAT 3	1
8	HEAT 3	2
9	HEAT 3	3
10	HEAT 4	1
11	HEAT 4	2
12	HEAT 4	3
13	HEAT 5	1
14	HEAT 5	2
15	HEAT 5	3
16	HEAT 6	1
17	HEAT 6	2
18	HEAT 6	3

ROUND 2

1st advance to round 3, 2nd ranked equal to 19th place

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 7	1
2	HEAT 7	2
3	HEAT 8	1
4	HEAT 8	2
5	HEAT 8	3
6	HEAT 9	1
7	HEAT 9	2
8	HEAT 9	3
9	HEAT 10	1
10	HEAT 10	2
11	HEAT 10	3
12	HEAT 11	1
13	HEAT 11	2
14	HEAT 11	3
15	HEAT 12	1
16	HEAT 12	2
17	HEAT 12	3

ROUND 3

1st advance to round QF, 2nd & 3rd advance to round 4

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 13	1
2	HEAT 13	2
3	HEAT 14	1
4	HEAT 14	2
5	HEAT 14	3
6	HEAT 15	1
7	HEAT 15	2
8	HEAT 15	3
9	HEAT 16	1
10	HEAT 16	2
11	HEAT 16	3
12	HEAT 17	1
13	HEAT 17	2
14	HEAT 17	3
15	HEAT 18	1
16	HEAT 18	2
17	HEAT 18	3

ROUND 4

1st & 2nd ranked equal to 13th place

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 19	1
2	HEAT 19	2
3	HEAT 20	1
4	HEAT 20	2
5	HEAT 20	3
6	HEAT 21	1
7	HEAT 21	2
8	HEAT 21	3
9	HEAT 22	1
10	HEAT 22	2
11	HEAT 22	3
12	HEAT 23	1
13	HEAT 23	2
14	HEAT 23	3

QUARTER FINAL

1st advance to round SF, 2nd ranked equal to 7th place

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 25	1
2	HEAT 25	2
3	HEAT 26	1
4	HEAT 26	2
5	HEAT 27	1
6	HEAT 27	2
7	HEAT 28	1
8	HEAT 28	2
9	HEAT 29	1
10	HEAT 29	2
11	HEAT 30	1
12	HEAT 30	2

SEMI-FINAL

1st advance to FINAL, 2nd ranked equal to 4th place

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 31	1
2	HEAT 31	2
3	HEAT 32	1
4	HEAT 32	2
5	HEAT 33	1
6	HEAT 33	2
7	HEAT 34	1
8	HEAT 34	2

FINAL

SEED	HEAT	RK
1	HEAT 34	1
2	HEAT 34	2
3	HEAT 34	3



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LEWIS CRATHERN ON HIS WAY TO AN IMPRESSIVE 7TH PLACE AT THE RED BULL KOTAI!
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



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LIGHTROOM

MATI WLODARCZYK GENERATING SOME SERIOUS POP IN EGYPT!
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK



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LIGHTROOM

JANEK KORYCKI PROVING THERE ARE SOME WAVES TO BE FOUND
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AS HE RINSES THIS SARDINIAN BEAUTY.
PHOTO TOMEK USTUPSKI

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INSIGHT

SLINGSHOT'S MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS & CONTENT MANAGER: LYNDEE TALMAGE

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTO KADEN SPONHAUER

In a new series focusing on women in the industry we are moving away from pro riders in bikinis and are turning our attention to the women with stories to tell from behind the scenes of some of the world's biggest kite companies. We'll be shining the spotlight on someone talented every issue and hoping to inspire more ladies to enter the arena!



" I'VE BEEN FULLY KITEBOARDING FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS NOW AND PROGRESSING EVERY SESSION! "



3X KITEBOARDING WORLD CHAMPION,
2 X TRIPLE-S WORLD CHAMPION AND 2 X KPL CHAMPION,
KAROLINA WINKOWSKA IS ONE OF SLINGSHOT'S BEST FEMALE RIDERS
PHOTO PATRICK WEILAND

Lyndee, we've been looking forward to this interview! Could you tell us a little bit about where your childhood and where you grew up?

Hey Jen, it's great to catch up! I've been living on the West Coast my whole life. I grew up in Portland, went to college in Seattle and then lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for quite some time. I moved to Hood River for the wind and to be close to all the sports that are important to me!

How did you end up chasing the wind to Hood River? What's the vibe like over there?

After visiting Hood River for a few summers to go kiteboarding in early 2000, it seemed like the right lifestyle fit; It's our little bubble! The culture of the town is extremely sports driven and when a person asks "what do you do?", they don't mean job, they mean sports! It is so nice to be minutes from the river, mountain or woods. The wind is crazy here, and some say if you can kiteboard here, you can kite anywhere!

When did you finally start kiteboarding, we heard rumours that you were a body-drag expert for years!

I joke that when I was married in 2000, I body-dragged around the world, but it wasn't until that chapter ended that I finally put a board on my feet! I've been fully kiteboarding for about five years now and progressing every session! In my job, I am around pro riders, kiteboarding videos and images all day. It is quite comical by the time I actually get on the water. I am a much better kiteboarder in my mind than in reality!

There aren't very many women in the kiteboarding industry that work behind the scenes, (not professional kiteboarders) why do you think it is still male-dominated industry?

I think the gear industry, in general, has always had a lot of testosterone. It's good to round out the energy and perspective in a room by having some gender diversity, and I think smart men realise this fact. More and more women are kiteboarding and hydrofoiling these days and thus becoming more knowledgeable about the products available. That will naturally, I believe, open doors to business opportunities for women.

“ MORE AND MORE WOMEN ARE KITEBOARDING AND HYDROFOILING THESE DAYS ”



SENSI GRAVES AND REED BRADY ARE KEY PLAYERS ON THE RIDE ENGINE TEAM
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

LYNDEE TALMAGE READY FOR A SESSION!
 PHOTO KADEN SPONHAUER

"WE SPAN A LOT OF AGE GENERATIONS,
 SO INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION
 ARE REALLY INSPIRING."



You joined 7-Nation a couple of years ago; how did you end up there?

I started in the gear industry during the .com craze in the Bay Area. I worked for several eCommerce startups that focused around gear. When you work with startups, everyone fills several roles, and you acquire business acumen quickly. I was lucky enough to land with Dakine after living in Hood River for a while, and then it was a natural progression to join 7-Nation in June of 2017. I believe in fate, and my timing was really fortunate to slip my foot in the door at Slingshot.

Tell us about your role as Marketing Communications Manager at 7-Nation (Slingshot and Ride Engine) including the campaigns, planning, content management and branding.

Specifically, my role is Content Creation Management. It is a lot of herding of information, ideas, visual assets, and organizing dates. We have 5 sports categories now at Slingshot, so making sure all the launches run smoothly and everyone plays well together keeps me busy. My favourite part of this job is the customer/dealer facing opportunities.

Design/SetUp and organizing shows such as AWSI, Surf Expo and beach events get me out of the office and on the front line to connect with our tribes and catch up on what is real.

What differentiates Slingshot from the other brands?

Each department here works very closely together. The great part of Slingshot is that your creative ideas in any department are always welcome. We span a lot of age generations, so innovation and collaboration are really inspiring.

What sort of relationship do you need to establish with the team and riders? How do you keep them motivated?

Our brand managers are the lifeblood at 7-Nation. These guys drive our sports categories as well as our team riders. Alex Fox is the kite brand manager, and Sam Light now manages our kite team riders, Fred Hope, Reed Brady and Chris Bobryk. My role with the team riders is basically a support role encouraging them to PLEASE take some time to document their crazy adventures and making sure they are all on current season products! Catching up with those guys is always a hoot when they come home and visit HQ.

What are the main day-to-day challenges you face at Slingshot?

I work with A LOT of smart people that daily have A LOT of great ideas. When all these ideas funnel down into the Marketing bucket, it can be challenging to translate how we bring them to other internal teams as well as our customers. We try to run everything through our brand narrative of being "Interesting not perfect, humans not heroes" but every once in a while, we can't help but believe that we have the BEST and most epic product on the market!

Who are some of the other women in the industry that deserve some recognition, in your opinion?

We have some amazingly strong women doing some great things in this industry. The number one behind the scenes female I know is Trina Saxe,

SAM LIGHT, SLINGSHOT'S TEAM RIDERS' MANAGER
PHOTO PATRICK WEILAND



"WE CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE BEST AND MOST EPIC PRODUCT ON THE MARKET!"



“ TO GET SOME STREET CREDIT IN THIS INDUSTRY, IT HELPS TO BE A PRO-RIDER! ”

THE LESS GLAMOROUS SIDE OF THE JOB!
PHOTO: KADEN SPONHAUER

our customer service manager. She knows almost every aspect of every product Slingshot and Ride Engine have made in the last ten years!

To get some street credit in this industry, it helps to be a pro-rider! Sensi Graves works closely with us on the Ride Engine projects, and Karolina Winkowska is our favourite female rider!

What changes have you seen, and would you like to see within the industry?

Although everyone is trying to innovate new features and products (wing surfing and hydrofoils), I believe the biggest and most impactful evolution is how a brand connects and relates with their specific customers. Everyone is building kites and boards and trying to be NEW, that gets redundant. People are smart, you need to create personal experiences and make them feel connected to your brand. Every employee at Slingshot walks the walk and uses our products.

" I BELIEVE THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPACTFUL EVOLUTION IS HOW A BRAND CONNECTS AND RELATES WITH THEIR SPECIFIC CUSTOMERS. "

KAROLINA WINKOWSKA STOKED IN BRAZILI
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

Being authentic and engaging customers on the beaches and out in the world goes a long way to build confidence and build community, and that is what is important in the long run.

Any upcoming news you'd like to share with us?

We believe in the right product at the right time! We are in the final planning stages for the release of our Phantasm carbon foil line that Tony and Jeff Logosz have been dialling in for quite a while.

Thank you, LynDee and all the best for 2020!

Thanks, Jen!





THE NETHERLANDS

WORDS & PHOTOS CRYSTAL VENESS

When wintry weather arrives, most kiteboarders flock to tropical destinations and sunny beaches for a windy escape; most level-headed kiteboarders that is! We, however, had clearly taken a few too many knocks to the head and somehow ended up in the Netherlands. Only the British would be deranged enough to leave one cold, wet landscape for another, but that's precisely what happened. With eight members of the Liquid Force UK and International team arriving from near and far, the British invasion was underway!



“ THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE BEING ON THE WATER AS THE FIRST SHARDS OF SUNSET BREAK THROUGH THE SKY, AND THE THOUGHT OF THAT WAS ENOUGH TO PULL US OUT INTO THE COLD. ”

South African but UK born wave shredder, Luke McGillewie, flew over from Canada, with the rainy weather in Amsterdam being a warm reprieve from the snowfall in Calgary. The UK grom team, shepherded by Crocs-and-socks wearing Craig Smith, took the EuroTunnel over in a station wagon with four heaving board bags strapped to the roof. George Dufty, who we didn't know was coming until we received a selfie from the plane, arrived with only his boots, bar, wetsuit, and harness. Grant Clayton flew over from Scotland with nothing but the clothes on his back, while the newest LF team rider, Georgina Monti, flew in with a board bag that was bigger than she was.

On the first windy day of the long weekend, our ragtag bunch of Brits miraculously managed to assemble on the beachfront at IJmuiden (pronounced "eye-MOW-den") before sunrise for our first group session. Looking out over the North Sea in the dark and cold, we were hesitant to leave the warm comfort of Makai Beach Club, where the hot coffee and chocolate croissants were singing their sirens song.

There is nothing quite like being on the water as the first shards of sunset break through the sky, and the thought of that was enough to pull us out into the cold. With Luke being first to pump up his 7m Wow and head to the water, 15-year-old groms Billy Evans and Fraser Eldred were close to follow. You can always bet on teens and their FOMO when it comes to a kite session!



“ WITH THE WIND BLOWING ALONG THE COASTLINE AND OVER THE PIER, THERE WERE BEAUTIFUL BUTTER FLAT SECTIONS OF WATER BETWEEN THE CLEAN, BREAKING WAVES. ”

Walking across the shell-strewn beach shivering in our wetsuits, we were relieved to find that the water in the North Sea was warmer than the current air temperature. We tacked upwind to the pier to meet the only member of the squad without a UK passport: Canadian camerawoman,

Crystal Veness, who was waiting on the rocks with fellow photographer Jim (Fraser's dad) by the most prime piece of water in the area. With the wind blowing along the coastline and over the pier, there were beautiful butter flat sections of water between the clean, breaking waves. The rest of the crew were quick to join us on the water to take advantage of the golden morning light and wide-open spaces.

While most of us had ridden with one or another at some point in time, this was the first time we had all gotten together for a kite trip. Having the whole spot to ourselves for this early morning session built a kind of kinship that had us all feeling like old friends, immediately! From ribbing the groms over 'illegal' grabs to swapping boards and trying to one-up each other with freestyle tricks, we all left the water laughing and having forgotten about the cold.

We gathered back at the base for lunch with our local friend Joris, the 24-year-old owner of Kitesurf school 'Windseekers' and 'Makai Beach Club'. For some of us, it was our first time meeting — others, a reunion that was years in the making. The rest, of course, had been kiting together just the other day at Southend in Essex.

“ WE RODE UNTIL THE SQUALL LINE MOVING TOWARDS US HAD EVERYONE WITH A KITE IN THE AIR GETTING LIFTED OFF THEIR FEET ”

Chit-chatting away over a simple Dutch lunch of broodje kaas (bread with cheese), Joris had also picked up a few other local favourites for us to sample. The very non-American Filet Americain which is raw beef served pâté style on bread, which was a hit with some and a flop with the others. A packet of sliced meat with the label paardenrookvlees had been half consumed before we realised it was smoked horse meat; that one got handed back over to the Dutchmen very quickly!

There was more clear sky to take advantage of before the rain came back, so we headed back out for another session with some of the locals. The conditions looked promising, and even Joris locked up the shop to join us on his hydrofoil. We rode until the squall line moving towards us had everyone with a kite in the air getting lifted off their feet, and the threat of rain was too close, then we packed it in for.

After a few days of kiting coastal IJmuiden and Zandvoort, and a few nights of talking about going to Amsterdam to party (but never actually going to Amsterdam to party), we were ready to take a break from the North Sea. Hunkered down by the heavy rain in our sea lodge at Bloemendaal aan Zee,





“ WITH THE WIND BLOWING ALONG THE COASTLINE AND OVER THE PIER, THERE WERE BEAUTIFUL BUTTER FLAT SECTIONS OF WATER BETWEEN THE CLEAN, BREAKING WAVES. ”

We hurried to unpack our gear and got ready to walk down - only to realise that we had forgotten a pump. Nearly a two-hour drive, and nobody brought a pump! Classic.

In the Netherlands, kitesurfing is a major sport. At passport control, when 'kitesurfing trip' was the answer to the question of why we were here, the agent at the desk smiled

and was quick to inform us that there was a lot of rain in the forecast but a few windy days coming up.

When we arrived at the distant kite spot, which was a long drive from any residential areas, in the early afternoon on a workday, it shouldn't have been a surprise that there were already dozens of kites on the spot. There were even a few other Liquid Force riders there with the MaxFlow pump adaptor! With our session saved, we hurried up to the

lagoon to find the flattest slice of water for our Maasvlakte Shredathon. With Crystal perched in the sand at the edge of the water, we took it in turns to ride by and show off our most stylish manoeuvres for the camera.

There are only so many tricks and grabs one can do for the camera before it gets repetitive, so our photoshoot quickly devolved into who could do the kookiest looking trick and get the biggest laughs from the rest of the team. With only a small window of riding in the forecast, we made sure to have as much fun as we could.

The clouds opened up, and the rain began to pour as we were making our way back up the dunes with our gear. While we were hurrying to escape the rain, there was a small army of Dutch kitesurfers racing down the dunes to go pump up their kites and have a session amidst the downpour. While it was refreshing to see how passionate the locals were about kiting no matter the conditions, we were happy to be heading back to the warmth and comfort of our seaside cottage.

“ THERE'S ALWAYS TIME TO SQUEEZE IN ONE MORE SESSION, AND WITH THE DEPARTING FLIGHTS SCHEDULED AFTER LUNCH, JORIS HAD ONE LAST SPOT TO TAKE US TO. ”

With so many people in such a small space, you couldn't take a call (or a crap!) without everyone else hearing it. By the last day of the trip, we had all gotten to know each other more than we had ever wanted to! Still, packing up our stuff for an early morning checkout on the last day was bittersweet. We had been having so much fun that it was hard to imagine it coming to an end.

However, it wasn't over yet! There's always time to squeeze in one more session, and with the departing flights scheduled after lunch, Joris had one last spot to take us to. We arrived at 'The Horse of Marken' lighthouse just in time to watch the sunrise (Although describing it as sunrise would be a bit of a stretch) A more accurate description would be watching the rainy sky go from dark grey to slightly less dark grey.

If we wanted to get that last session in, we'd have to time it just right. We drove to the spot and parked our vehicles alongside each other at the water's edge to wait for a break in the rain. Throwing baby tomatoes back and forth, while debating who had the guts to get on the water, we continued to wait out the storm.





There were only short gaps of 10 - 15 minutes at a time where it wasn't raining, so we set up two NV's in the grass to be ready for the next one.

With offshore wind and no easy entry point, the only way into the water was by jumping from the grass over a gap of tall reeds and bushes! Joris was the first to take the plunge and found out the hard way that there were also cement blocks underneath the bushes. With nothing more than a bruised ego, he carried on with his session while the rest of us nearly killed ourselves laughing in the cars!

" THE RISK PAID OFF ON THAT LAST SESSION, AND THE BOYS HAD THE SPOT TO THEMSELVES, FIRING EACH OTHER UPON EACH PASSING TACK "

Luke couldn't resist joining him! After launching his kite and dodging a platoon of Dutch cyclists, he hopped off the side and into the water for one last flatwater fête. The risk paid off on that last session, and the boys had the spot to themselves, firing each other upon each passing tack. With a big red bus full of tourists pulling over to check out the action, they had one last chance to throw kite loops, board offs, and big airs before the rain started yet again.

We warmed up in the car on the way to the airport while belting out 'Call Me Maybe', which had somehow become the song of the trip!

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

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

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 BLACK ICE- SNOWKITING ON A FROZEN LAKE

There's something about this movie that's just so surreal, and we're not surprised to see it land at #1! Watch Jonas Lengwiler and the unhooked.ch crew snowkite over frozen Lake Sils, Switzerland on skis. How incredible does that look?



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 THIS IS BRAZIL KITESURF EDITION

Landing at #2, Full-time kiteboarding vlogger, Firekiter shares his jaw-dropping drone footage from his recent trip to Brazil. If you haven't been to Brazil before and enjoy a combination of kiteboarding and nature, this edit will have you looking at flights, guaranteed!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 SNOWKITING - 'WHAT IT MEANS' - THE MOVIE

Claiming #3 on our Movie Night list, Chasta, Lolo, Johann, Wareck, Hugues, Felix, Alex, Simone, Jonas and Ronny team up for this FULL MOVIE – 10 minutes of non-stop insane snowkite action! Get this one on the big screen!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 KITEBOARDING IS FUN FREISTIEL SERIES #50

Ben Beholz's episode #50 of FREISTIEL made it to #4 on our Movie Night list, and it will definitely keep you entertained for the next 5 minutes! A fresh perspective and reminder not to take life too seriously – watch this!



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