

JUNE / JULY 20

## WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 81 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! Thankfully most of us are back on the water and enjoying the sport we love, make every session count, and when you aren't on the water, you can trust us to deliver you the very best in kiteboarding content from around the world. This issue we look at a study into the dangers of kitesurfing, just how risky is our sport

these days, read on to find out! James Carew recalls some of his best Moments In Time from Mauritius, and Ruben Lenten drops in for our Interview and recalls his struggles with injuries throughout his career as well as his mindset for a positive way forwards. Elsewhere we have tests, technique with Christiana and Karine, F-ONE are the featured brand, and there is loads more inside too! Check it out!

## ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE

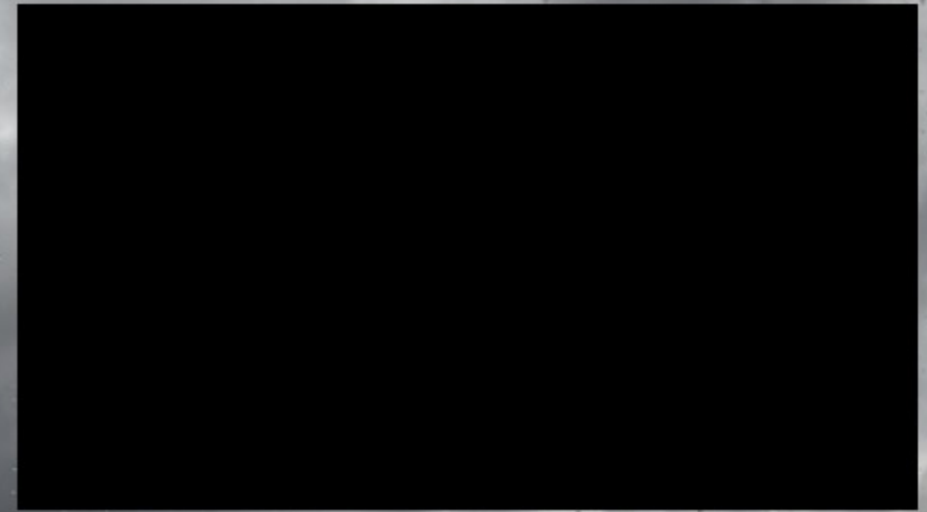
- Click on the corners to turn the pages or use the navigation bars. If you are viewing on a touch screen device then you can use swipe gestures. Swipe left and right to turn the pages and up and down to bring up the navigation bars.



## - IS KITEBOARDING DANGEROUS -

MOMENTS IN TIME / SAME QUESTIONS - F-ONE / THE INTERVIEW - RUBEN LENTEN TESTS / TECHNIQUE AND LOTS MORE INSIDE TOO!





# E V

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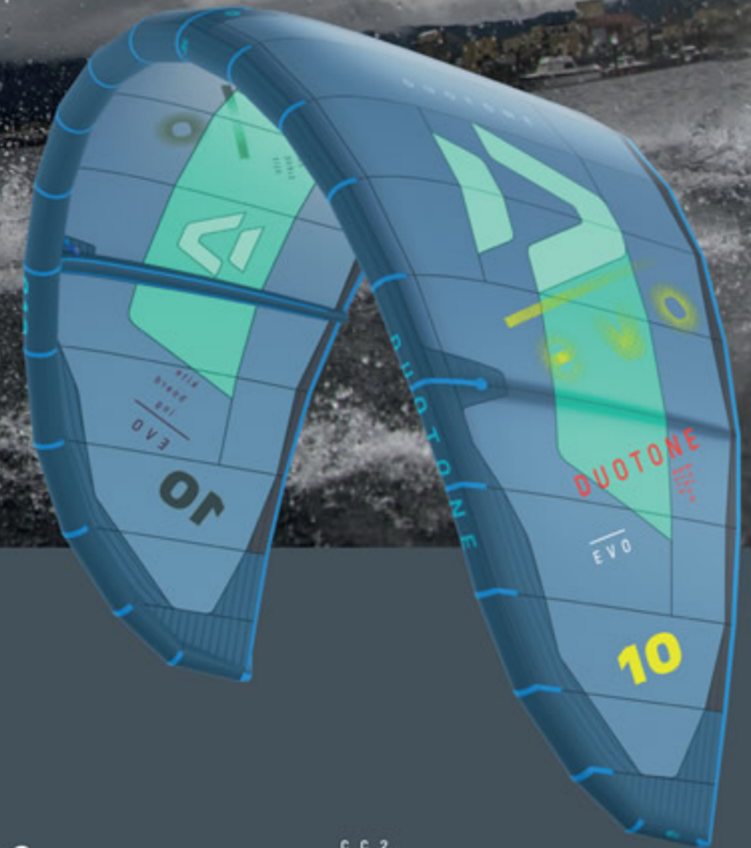
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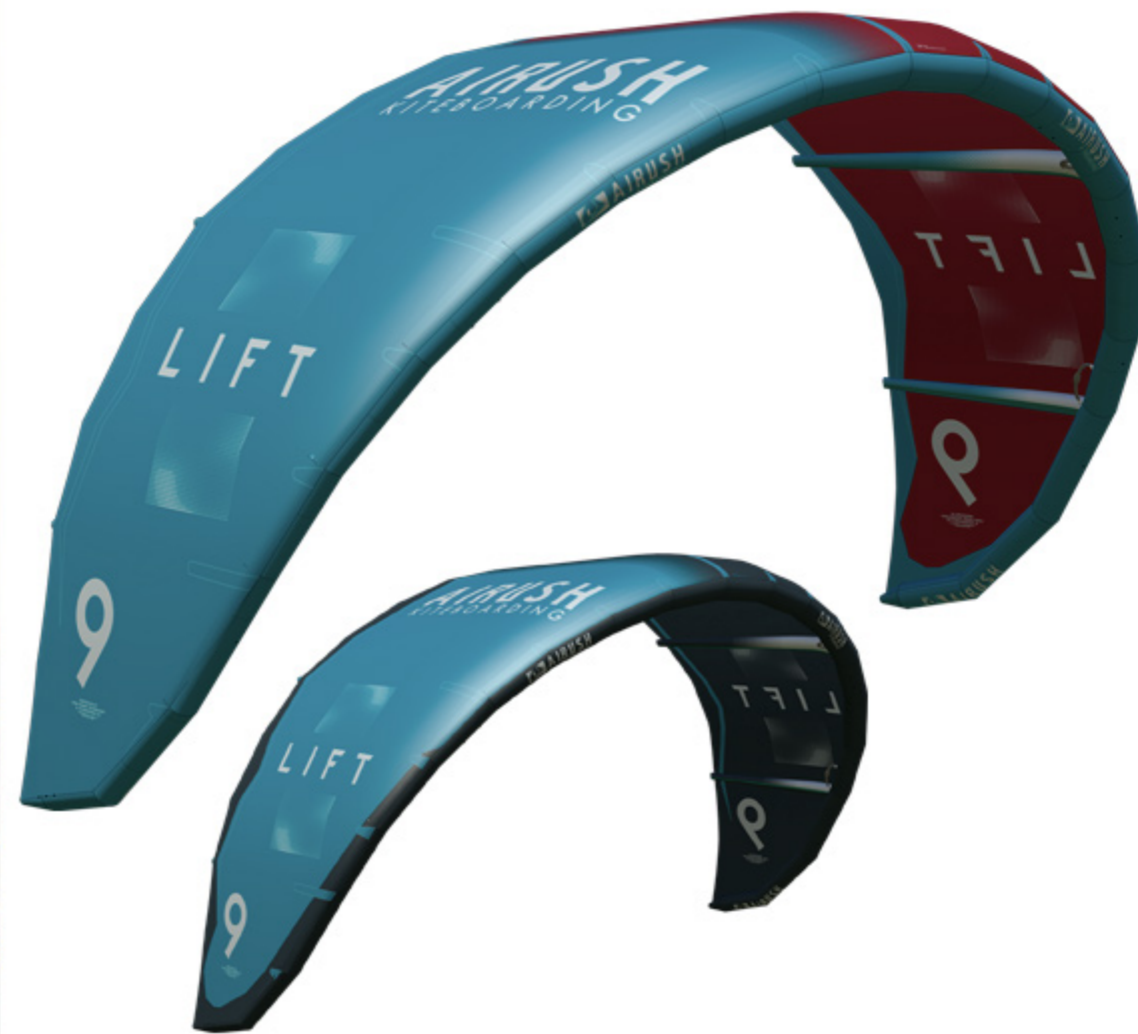
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without full instruction in person by a  
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JALOU LANGEREE FEELING THE STOKE IN THE PHILIPPINES  
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE







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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 81

Last time I wrote the editorial we were living in a very surreal time. COVID 19 was locking down kitesurfers around the world, and the industry seemed to be on the brink of disaster. Two months is a very short period, and a lot can change. Thankfully it has, but it's an uncertain path we are treading and who knows what the future holds.

If you had pulled me aside in October last year and said "Rou, in six months you'll be locked down in your own home unable to do the sports you enjoy. Businesses will be ordered to close, and governments around the world would be taking back the liberties of citizens in a manner never before seen." I'd have called you mad.

So who knows what the future holds these days, it's never been more uncertain. One benefit we can all enjoy, well, most of us; is the pure pleasure of getting out into the ocean. It seems that kitesurfers have launched themselves back into the sport with a vengeance. Being cooped up has left us frothing for sessions and the shops, beaches and brands have had a busy few weeks.

We're all still reeling from the effects of effectively being shut down, but we are rebuilding. Slowly, but surely we will recover, although perhaps always with an eye on the future. Now is the time to embrace what we have, the freedoms we can enjoy and to look forward to those to come.

Take every opportunity to get on the water and make the most of every second we have. Treat every moment as your last, life is short, and it might not be as free as we once thought. Let's hope the world keeps on recovering, and the wind keeps on blowing!

*Rou Chater*  
Publishing Editor

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WORDS ROU CHATER

# IS KITEBOARDING DANGEROUS?

Is kiteboarding dangerous? It seems like a reasonable question given the recent sacrifices many kitesurfers have made to help medical staff cope with the current COVID 19 crisis. Here in the UK, the mantra was: 'stay home, protect the health service and save lives'. Dutifully we stopped kiting, it wasn't banned (although driving to the beach was), but it was a collective effort by the community to become part of the solution and not part of the problem...





It does beg the question though, just how dangerous is kiting? After all, there are many sports out there that cause injury; you can get killed driving, crossing the road, choking on food in a restaurant. Toasters kill 700 people a year on average...that's some number when you think about it.

I won't get into the rights and wrongs about various governmental approaches and the subsequent obedience or otherwise of the citizens. If you stopped kiting for a few months because it was considered a dangerous sport, it's probably worth knowing how dangerous it really is.

Fortunately those kind Dutchies spent a year studying watersports and kitesurfing in particular to produce a study looking precisely at this question. You can see the full paper [HERE](#), it's typical thesis style fair, lots of facts and figures and data, and if you can get through the wording, it certainly makes for an interesting read.

From an outsider's point of view kitesurfing certainly looks like a high-risk sport; I think the biggest question you get asked on the beach is if you need big muscles to hold the kite down - I doubt I'm alone in that. Equally, it looks like a pretty reckless past time to the average Joe on the beach.

I was there at the beginning, way back in the late '90s and early 00's when kitesurfing was in its infancy. The sport has changed immeasurably over the last 20 years. It's quite incredible when you think about it. Back then the brands wouldn't add safety gear to their equipment, as they didn't want to get sued if it went wrong.

Fast forward 20 years and the brands have come together to approve a standardised safety system that has to meet specific requirements across the board.

**“ IF YOU STOPPED KITING FOR A FEW MONTHS BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERED A DANGEROUS SPORT, IT'S PROBABLY WORTH KNOWING HOW DANGEROUS IT REALLY IS ”**



MOONA WHYTE IS NO STRANGER TO TAKING RISKS IN BIG WAVES  
PHOTO JAMES BOULDING





**“ WE CAN GO FROM BEING TOTALLY SAFE TO RESEMBLING A TEABAG GETTING DUNKED AND BOUNCED INTO WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY. ”**

Thanks; mainly to the work of the GKA, the push-away safety system is being used by every brand out there.

In the early 2000's, we had to build our own safety systems. Anyone who remembers spending a fortune on the Wichard QR Shackle and then modding a bar to give some semblance of "safety" in their backyard will know what I'm talking about.

I'd regularly drive to the beach and in all honesty - and I mean this - wonder if I'd actually drive back or if I'd be dead

When the wind came, kiteboarding was a serious business. The equipment lacked depower, control and the ability to handle massive shifts in the wind. Riders were getting slammed regularly, and even worse riders were dying too. It wasn't until the mid-2000's that things really started to change in the industry.

By the end of the '00s, the sport had changed a lot, gear was safer, safety systems were emerging that worked, and bow style

kites with wide wind ranges were the norm at the beach. In ten short years, the leap forwards in terms of safety was startling. Yet still, riders got slammed, and again kites sadly died.

If you kitesurf and you are reading this then undoubtedly you know someone or have yourself been involved in some form of kitesurfing accident. It happens to the best of us; in a split second we can go from being totally safe to resembling a teabag getting dunked and bounced into whatever comes our way. Numerous friends have suffered life-changing injuries - I've had a few myself. It seems no matter how safe the brands make the sport, the element of danger is ever-present.





**“ KITES DEMAND RESPECT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WIND GETS ABOVE 20 KNOTS. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD YOU THINK YOU ARE, THE KITE DOESN'T CARE. ”**



It's easy to see why, when you think about the simple jump and the fact that most riders can boost 10m on command on a windy day. The physics of a kite are such that we are not heavy enough to hold it down. All we can do is use our technique and skill to keep the kite in places within the wind window where it won't try and kill us, where we can control it.

A freak gust, a lack of concentration, equipment failure are just a few of the factors that can put the kite somewhere we don't want it to be in an instant, often with disastrous results. If you think you are immune to this, then you are foolhardy. Kites demand respect, especially when the wind gets above 20 knots. It doesn't matter how good you think you are, the kite doesn't care.

Injuries happen across a whole spectrum of riders: beginners, intermediates and experts, we are all at risk. That last word is probably the key to understanding all of this: RISK. As humans, we all have different aversion levels to risk. Women, by their nature, are usually more sensible than men (don't jump down my throat on this, it's a researched fact), and younger people are generally less sensible than older people. However, it goes much deeper and is typically rooted in personal experiences harboured deep in our consciousness.

When I was younger I really didn't care, and that's natural, it's said that men don't actually mature until they are 25. Before that their risk awareness is too low. This harks back to tribe mentality; after all hunting wild animals with a stick was a risky business. There's a reason the "elders" stayed at home ready to cook whatever the younger hunters brought back.







SIMPLE LOW TRICKS LIKE THIS ONE FROM KAROLINA WINKOWSKA POSE A VERY LOW RISK PHOTO ALEXANDER LEWIS-HUGHES

This is why, tragically, it is usually younger people found buried in avalanche territory, a place where risk management is so critical it's the difference between life and death. It's a similar story with other pastimes too, motorbikes, cars, there is a reason why older people get cheaper insurance and women are often seen as a safer bet than young men. If the kitesurfing gear we use now is as safe as it has ever been, then it is down to how, and when, we choose to use it that matters.

For the study in Holland, the researchers worked with a group of 194 kitesurfers, both men and women, across a range of ages from 13-59. Over the course of the kitesurfing season from April to November, these riders logged an impressive 16,816 hours of water time. They were asked to record their time on the water and feedback any injuries they picked up to the research team.

**"IT IS DOWN TO HOW, AND WHEN, WE CHOOSE TO USE IT THAT MATTERS."**

Rider: Julien Pittou | Photographer: Debbie Jean Hoffman



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A total of 177 injuries were sustained across the study resulting in an injury rate of 10.5 injuries per 1000 hours of kiting. The most common injuries were cuts and abrasions (25.4%), followed by contusions (19.8%), joint sprains (17.5%) and muscle sprains (10.2%). The foot and ankle was the most common site of injury (31.8%), followed by the knee (14.1%) and hand and wrist (10.2%). Most injuries were reported to occur during a trick or jump. Although the majority of injuries were mild, severe injuries like an anterior cruciate ligament tear, a lumbar spine fracture, a bimalleolar ankle fracture and an eardrum rupture were reported.

The conclusion of the study was this: "The injury rate of kitesurfing is in the range of other popular (contact) sports. Most injuries are relatively mild, although kitesurfing has the potential to cause serious injuries." Which is, to be honest, what I was expecting before I read the study.

Kitesurfing has become so much safer in recent years it's lost some of the drama of the early days. I certainly never drive to the beach, thinking I might not come back. I think I stopped doing that sometime in 2004. These days with massive wind ranges on kites and huge depower I feel reasonably safe even when it's nuking. However, that isn't to say we should be complacent.

As I mentioned earlier in the article, kites are ready to bite us in the ass at the first chance they get. Yes, they are tamer than in the days of old, but if you do the wrong thing with a 9m in 30 knots, you are always going to end up worse off. What's really interesting about the study is that it dives really deep into the injuries and how and when they were sustained.



**“ THESE DAYS WITH MASSIVE WIND RANGES ON KITES AND HUGE DEPOWER I FEEL REASONABLY SAFE EVEN WHEN IT'S NUKING. ”**



CHRISTOPHE TACK AND HELENA BROCHOCKA CRUISING IN TARIFA, THESE CONDITIONS ARE AS SAFE AS KITING CAN BE  
PHOTO JULIEN LELEU





**“ ALL FRACTURES WERE EITHER SUSTAINED IN SHALLOW WATER OR ON THE SHORE. HALF OF ALL OF INJURIES WERE SUSTAINED ATTEMPTING A JUMP OR TRICK. ”**

“The majority of the injuries were sustained in wind speeds of 4-6 Beaufort and flat to small wave (choppy) conditions, which are typical Dutch conditions. The vast majority (91.0%) of the injuries were sustained on the water. However, 49.2% of the injuries were sustained in shallow water, and 9% of the injuries were caused by an accident on

the shore. Interestingly, all fractures were either sustained in shallow water or on the shore. Half of all of injuries were sustained attempting a jump or trick. In 15.8% of the injuries the athlete reported that lack of experience played a role in sustaining the injury. Loss of kite control was reported in 10.7% as a cause of the injury, and gear failure in 3.4%. In only 2.8%, the injury was caused by contact or collision with someone else on the water.”

“Most injuries were found amongst kitesurfers with 3-5 years of experience,

but this was also the largest group of participants that reported the most hours of kitesurfing in the study period. A trend was observed for a decreasing injury rate with an increasing level of experience. Beginners with less than one year of experience had an injury rate of 17.5. With 3-5 years of experience the injury rate was 11.5, and this decreased to 7.8 injuries per 1000 h in participants with more than 10 years of experience. However, this did not reach statistical significance (OR = 2.23; 95%CI: 0.99-4.98; P = 0.052).”

The takeaway for me there is that nearly 50% of the injuries happened in shallow water or on the shore.

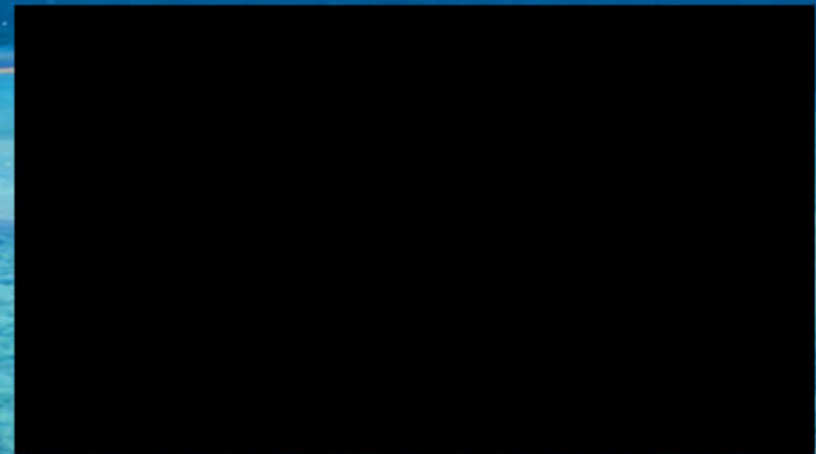


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Going back to the risk management aspect, it's not rocket science to see that you can quickly make kitesurfing a lot safer. Don't be a dick on the beach launching your kite the wrong way, not checking your lines, being too hasty to get on the water fast, etc., and don't pull tricks in shallow water, where if you crash you are going to hit the deck.

Of course, the more risk-averse reader will say, well I can make kiting 100% safe by not kiting near the beach, not trying any tricks and just mowing the lawn. And you know what, that would probably work, but it would be pretty dull unless mowing the lawn is your idea of a great day out.

While the study looked at all aspects of kiting, it's worth noting that the sessions were mostly held in the golden force 4-6 wind speed. This is where kitesurfing is at it's most fun, without being overly dangerous.

With the craze for big air and massive loops, the danger level increases exponentially. It's how you kite, where you kite and when you kite that really matters.

Cruise the lagoon with a 12m kite going back and forth, and the chances of injury are slim. Turn the wind up a notch and start pulling some tricks and the danger level rises. Pump up in 50 knots with a mind-set ready for mega loops and the danger levels increase even more. It doesn't matter how good you are at any stage of this, there is always a risk.

I'm far more relaxed on a 7m small wave day than I am when I'm clinging on to a 5m in a storm and chasing down monster waves. There is one last area of the study I want to touch on, the years of experience you have do mean the injury risk is lower. That makes sense, more experience is more knowledge and understanding of the risks involved.

THE STRONGER THE WIND, THE MORE SERIOUS THE CONSEQUENCES. GIJS WASSENAAR PULLING THE TRIGGER  
PHOTO KYLE CABANO

**“ IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT ANY STAGE OF THIS, THERE IS ALWAYS A RISK.”**





HANNAH WHITELEY IS NO STRANGER TO DANGER!  
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

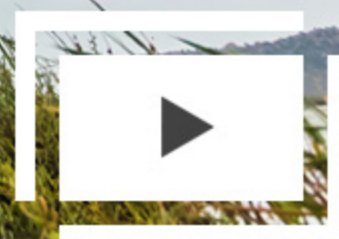


**“ BE COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR OWN LEVEL OF RISK,  
MANAGE IT AND MAKE SOUND DECISIONS, THE EQUIPMENT  
IS SAFER THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN, BUT ARE YOU? ”**

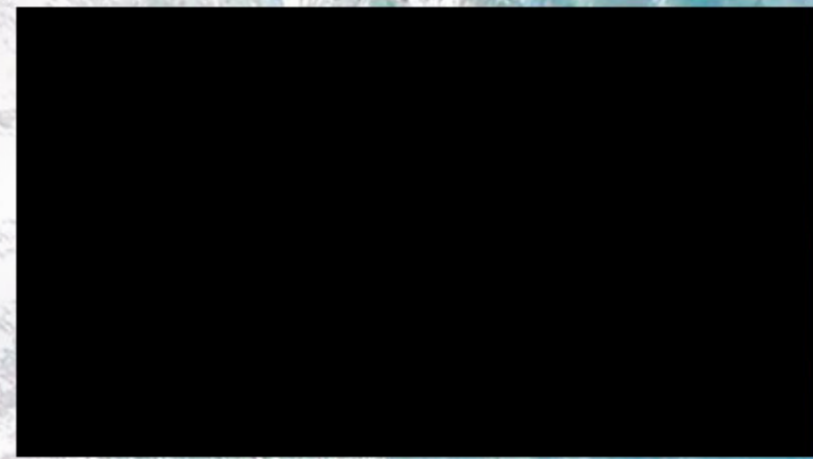
A blissfully ignorant newbie is far more likely to pump up a 12m in 30 knots than the wizened old pro. Sadly with kiting we tend to have to learn the hard way. Nothing beats experience, but I've seen time and time again the kite doesn't care about this, and when things go wrong it happens really fast.

To conclude, kitesurfing is safer than it has ever been, but it is a sport that carries plenty of inherent risks. It doesn't matter how good you are, disaster can be lurking around any corner. Unless of course you wrap yourself up in body armour and mow the lawn with a 12m in 10-15 knots and don't do any tricks. Let's be honest, who on earth would want to do just that until the end of their days?! Be comfortable with your own level of risk, manage it and make sound decisions, the equipment is safer than it has ever been, but are you? Most importantly, never stop learning...

A special thanks to Christiaan JA van Bergen, Ginno MMJ Kerkhoffs, Rik IK Weber, Tim Kraal and Daniël Haverkamp for conducting arguably the most comprehensive study this sport has seen on the subject.







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by the Elements.



# SAME QUESTIONS DIFFERENT BRAND! F-ONE



F-ONE have been with us since the very birth of our sport. Headed up by Raphael Salles alongside his wife Sophie it's one of the few family run and owned brands in the business. Over the years they have morphed from making just kiteboards, to offering products across a vast range of water sports. It's one of the most iconic companies in the sport too, with products like the Bandit garnering an army of fans worldwide. This issue Rou Chater pitches the same questions once again to see where their ethos lies...

WORDS ROU CHATER



**“EVERY SINGLE PRODUCT WE HAVE IN THE RANGE HAS BEEN THROUGH AN EXTENSIVE TESTING PROCESS WITH A LEVEL OF EXIGENCE LIKE NO OTHERS.”**

**What is your core focus as a brand, and what do you think makes you different?**

With our extensive knowledge and expertise within the kiteboarding industry, we thrive on creating the best gear that enables our riders to spend as much time as possible on the water.

**Who makes up the main team behind the products and what experience do they have?**

Raphael Salles, F-ONE's founder and CEO is head of the R&D team. After a professional windsurfing career, Raphael founded F-ONE and gave it everything he had.

Raphael gets most of his product inspiration and ideas while he's out riding and Mickael Fernandez has been testing equipment with him for over 10 years. The duo have an extensive trial process while testing kites designed by Robert Graham, and boards and hydrofoils designed by Charles Bertrand.

**How much testing and product development goes into making a final product?**

Every single product we have in the range has been through an extensive testing process with a level of exigence like no others. Raphael is the boss and owner; R&D and testing are his passion, so there are no limits on budget or time limitations to create the best products.



PAUL SERIN AND LIAM WHALEY PHOTO MATT GEORGES









**Which product are you most proud of in your line and why?**

That's a tough one! Being a family business, every product that we create is a member of it and is treated as such. We are especially proud of the number of new products and innovation we have been able to create and add to the range.

Recently, we have introduced: two Bandit's, the V3 huge foil collection, the Magnet, the Bullit, the Breeze V3, the One and the foil kites.

**“EVERY PRODUCT THAT WE CREATE IS A MEMBER OF IT AND IS TREATED AS SUCH”**

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**“ AS WE ARE ONLY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE DISCIPLINE, THERE ARE STILL NEW THINGS WE’RE DISCOVERING DAILY, WHICH GIVES US PLENTY TO WORK ON. ”**

**What's the hardest part of running your brand?**

We're a small team, and we're constantly busy, every day is intense! It's not like the skiing or biking industry, our numbers are

smaller, but our customers require a high level of quality, innovation and communication from us.

**What's the most rewarding?**

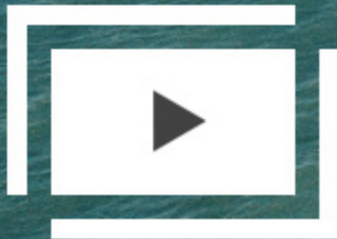
When we go to the beach and see riders having an incredible time on our gear; that's what it's all about really!

**What does the future look like for F-ONE, what innovations, different areas and new products are in the pipeline?**

We have numerous new projects in the pipeline. Wingsurfing has been a big one, which we've spent quite some time on. As we are only in the early stages of the discipline, there are still new things we're discovering daily, which gives us plenty to work on.

We recently launched our new strapless board, the MAGNET, and its new Slim Tech unique technology. F-ONE is becoming a multi watersports company, only because our customers are engaging in a variety of watersports, depending on the conditions. This is pretty much what we're all like at the office as well!









Can you describe who the typical F-ONE rider might be? - By this, I mean the guy who buys your gear, who are you pitching yourselves to, not the pro riders.

We have gear that caters for everyone; from kids to adults, men and women, and anyone eager to spend time on the water. We don't tend to pitch to a specific type of person.

81 SAME QUESTIONS DIFFERENT BRAND!

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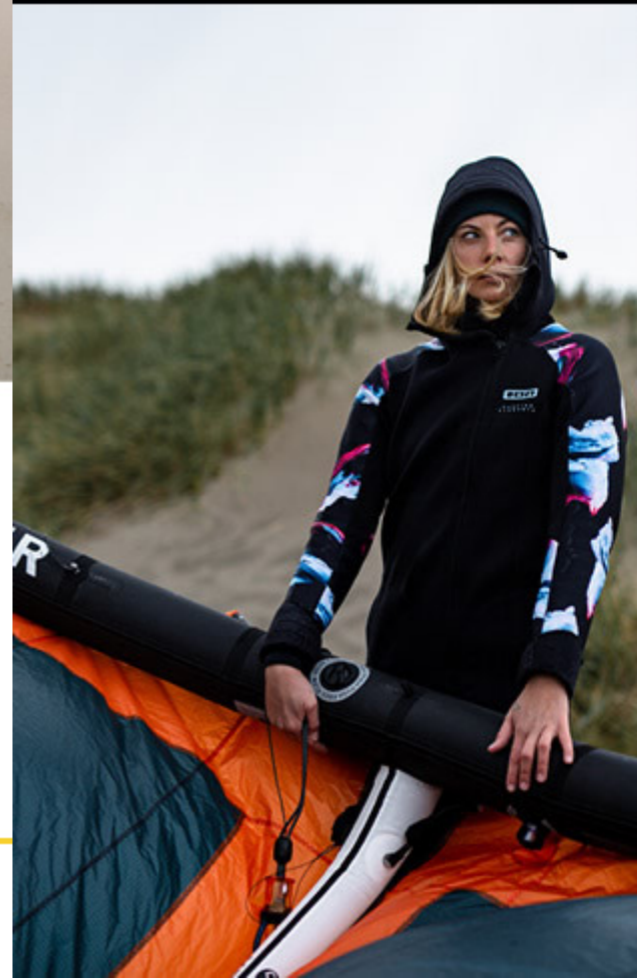


# FLY SURFER



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Rider: Johanna-Catharina Edin  
Photographer: Jonathan Strömberg, Berni Geislinger

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MITU MONTIERO IS ONE OF THE CORE FACES OF THE BRAND PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



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**THE NEW LIFT** is all about boosting, hangtime, and taking performance freeride to new heights. Designed for the rider looking for stability in the wildest conditions, exceptional hangtime and explosive power.

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PHOTO: KYLE CABANO

THE NEW LIFT

RIDERS: SAM MEDYSKY & GIJS WASSENAAR



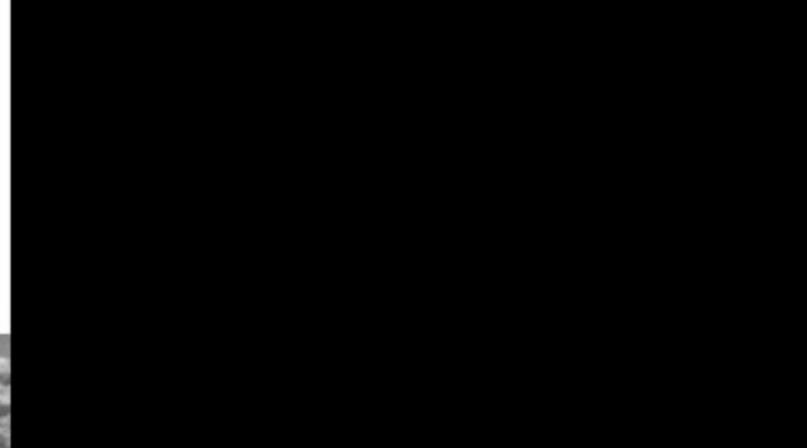




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Imagine a mountain, a big mountain. There's an old road leading to its peak and it's long and stretches as far as the horizon. You're alone, but there are people around you, people who are constantly fighting to reach the top. However, this is not a simple road; it's moving, there are obstacles, there's thunder, there's injury, and there are people in your way everywhere you look. It's almost like the road is speaking to you, telling you to turn around; it's too hard, you'll never make it. The only thing pushing you is that little voice inside of you, forcing you to go as far as you can no matter how hard the road tries to unhinge you. You don't know if it's worth the fight or if you'll ever get there, but all you know is there's a chance, and any chance is good enough. This, to me, is what competition feels like.

# MOMENTS IN TIME

WORDS JAMES CAREW PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA







“ ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS PUSH IT AWAY AND ENJOY MYSELF. REMIND MYSELF WHERE I WAS AND WHAT I WAS DOING. ”

A location people dream about and get anxiously excited and overwhelmingly scared all at once over. A place only the fortunate will ever physically visit while others, only in their dreams, a place called Mauritius. Where the ocean can change your life in an instant, making you the happiest of all creatures, then turn its back on you and make you work to keep your life.

A setting like this blended with top-level riders will naturally bring out the best and present the most driven minds with gold. Mauritius is one of those locations that I, personally, have always wanted to win and didn't stand a chance, although last year was different.

Last year, I put in the time, the money and created the mindset to win, everything was perfect. I won heats, scored exceptional results and pushed through the field. Even though I was fighting an injury, on the water, everything felt right, and I could see the top coming. After fighting off a hungry Brazilian, Sebastian Ribeiro, it was time. The final came, Airton Cozzolino VS James Carew, wave after wave we fought it out, refusing to go down easily. This time, however, I wasn't the pick, I fell when I needed a score and lost my chance - 2nd.

Not a bad result, but after being so focused on the top, but it felt like last. So close yet so far. I was filled with a feeling of relief, chopped up with anger and disappointment; it wasn't fun.

After weeks of training and fully committing myself, at this point, all I wanted to do was push it away and enjoy myself. Remind myself where I was and what I was doing.



## GEM BRUNA

The Gem Bruna harness has the same Roven composite Bionic Core Frame as the Majestic, but with a specialized female shape for women to shred in. Approved by Bruna Kajiya, the Gem is perfect for all of your freestyle endeavours. With Soft neoprene edges, Knitflex and Fix Foam, the harness will give you all the comfort you need. The Gem Bruna has a smart Battle belt 2.0 system with Flexcovers and a Key pocket 2.0.

HARDSHELL HARNESS



#BREAKBOUNDARIES





“ MY MIND WAS UTTERLY TRANSFERRED FROM COMPETITION TO JUST LIVING, BEING MYSELF AND KITING SOME OF THE BEST WAVES IN THE WORLD ”

Fortunately, we rented a house with all the Duotone boys; full of beer, cameras and the credit card 'Craig Cunningham', with the idea in mind of creating one of the best kite surfing videos to date; and that was precisely what I needed without even knowing it. My mind was utterly transferred from competition to just living, being myself

and kiting some of the best waves in the world with arguably, some of the best kites in the world.

I had no idea what to expect or how serious this project was about to get. However, the first night set the vibe. Let me set the tone, it was our videographer, Lidewij Hartog's birthday. A house full of drunken kiteboarders just out of a competition, fireworks, beer, the floor turned into a cake slip and slide, a pool and no wind the next day. I'll let you imagine what went down, but I will say anything that

happens in the competition was the last thing on my mind after that night.

Fortunately, no one else had birthdays coming up and the days that followed were entirely focused on capturing those rare, un-foreshadowed moments that make all the effort and time of every trip worth it. I couldn't count the sessions we had this trip, but I can remember every detail of one in particular.

The forecast was improving every day towards the end of the week, and every day that passed, we would wait for the pot of gold scratching closer to us knowing it was going to be epic.



HEADING BACK AFTER AN EPIC SESSION!

**CRAZYFLY**

# Cruz

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On this particular afternoon, we had been positioned at the world-famous One Eye break and realised we'd hyped this day up way passed its potential. Although the crowds were thinning, the sun was fading, and the waves seemed to be disappearing, it felt like everything we had hoped for was slowly coming to an end.

" IT FELT LIKE EVERYTHING WE HAD HOPED FOR WAS SLOWLY COMING TO AN END. "





“ WHAT FOLLOWED WAS ONE OF THE BEST SESSIONS I’VE EVER EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFE, WITH THE LIGHT SLOWLY FADING AND WAVES GROWING BIGGER EVERY SET ”

Our photographers were back on the boat and waved me over, letting me know they were going in and handing me a GoPro and the words, "record everything". The boat motored off into the lagoon and I was left with the job of telling everyone the cameras were gone. I turned to sail upwind and realised the crowds were gone, all who were left were friends and immediately the whole vibe changed.

The rain was passing in thick blankets and the waves which seemed to be "disappearing" proved me wrong as always, starting to pick up and thunder down the line like nothing I had expected. We all quickly changed perspective, and the follow-cam was on fire, filming wave after wave of perfect turns and meaty barrels.

What followed was one of the best sessions I've ever experienced in my life, with the light slowly fading and waves growing bigger every set, they were constantly tearing down the reef. Every time we passed each other, it was like a terribly out of tune symphony, everybody on the water was constantly screaming, not believing what was happening the stoke was real!

The most memorable moment by far from this session was ironically the last. GoPro in hand, I had the duty of filming Oswald (Ozzie) Smith, we waited out the back searching for the perfect set as we knew it was going to be one of the last before the light completely died. The horizon started to grow, and we both looked at each other, knowing it was the one.











Swinging wide this wave was like an uncontrollable beast just waiting to unleash itself on the razor-sharp reef. Knowing I had to be deep to get the footage, I wasn't sure what was about to happen, positioning myself behind Ozzie we both went for it. Ozzie opting to shoot down the line and go for the barrel, I followed, but it was late, and I had nowhere to go. I was locked into the ever-growing dark wall of water.

Seeing the barrel section coming I had two options, go straight and get blown to pieces but maybe get a shot of him getting completely drained, or follow him.

"I HAD NOWHERE TO GO. I WAS LOCKED INTO THE EVER-GROWING DARK WALL OF WATER."



# MASTER

Rider: Arthur Guillebert  
Picture: Charles Tiger  
Location: Los Roques, Venezuela



The Master V2 C+ is crammed with innovative features and superior materials like the full layer of Spread Tow Carbon, making it our lightest and most performant freeride to freestyle crossover twintip.

**PRS**

Parabolic Rail Shape

Sizes: 136 x 41 139 x 42





“ KITESURFING IS FULL OF THESE MAGICAL MOMENTS, AND THAT IS WHAT DRAWS US BACK TIME AND AGAIN... ”

I hesitated, and it was too late, I had to go with him. Not knowing if he knew I was there or not, I grabbed the rail and went for it. At this point, I hadn't really noticed what was happening, but as the lip came over me, it felt as though everything slowed, for a few seconds both Ozzie and I were in the same barrel, both fully focused on coming out. A barrel out on this wave, you feel the pristine blue with an aspect of danger, but with a weird safe feeling added in. This was not that, this was dark, thick and wanting blood. Not even remembering I had the GoPro on record, I was mesmerised. Not only was this one of the roundest barrels I had ever seen, but there was also someone in front of me fighting to come out of it; it was beautiful!

Then in a split second, the foam ball attacked me and sent me flying to another dimension, trying its best to tear me apart. Surfacing, I found myself incoherently screaming at absolutely no one - pure stoke! One of the wildest experiences I've ever had the pleasure of being in and for me made the whole trip worth it.

It's moments like this that make kitesurfing the ultimate sport for me. We've all had those sessions, those split-second moments; maybe it was a really long run without crashing while you are learning. Perhaps it's boosting the biggest jump you've done to date, or even just cruising and watching the sunset with your mates. Kitesurfing is full of these magical moments, and that is what draws us back time and again...

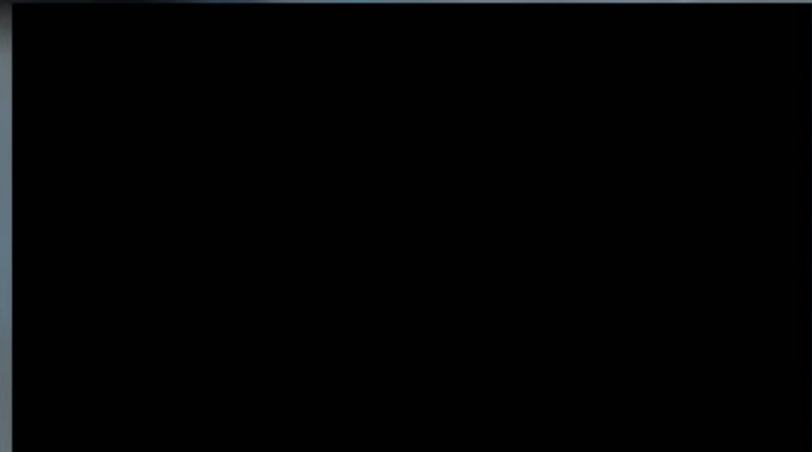
That's enough of the serious stuff, go get yourself a beer and look for that next moment!





# GIVE IT YOUR ALL

If you are going to do something, give it everything you have. Do not drag your feet, do not get distracted by excuses, and do not beat yourself before you start. Take a deep breath and commit to the challenge of something new. Your fear of the unknown is all that is holding your back. At LFK we strive to apply this idea to all facets of our brand. We dive headfirst into the things we are passionate about. It is this exact philosophy that got us into the hydrofoil side of kiteboarding so early. We embraced the float and set our minds to sharing the stoke of hydrofoiling with as many people as possible. Thanks to this mindset, we now have a full line of hydrofoil products to help you give it your all.





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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



HELIIARDE



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# TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

When choosing the moves for this edition we had no plan that they could all be accompanied by a rather catchy Alt-J tune. Deliberate or not, it turns out that having a hand free in all three is the way to go. Our opening gambit is for pure pleasure, washing your hand in the water whilst riding toeside. It may offer up a great photo opportunity, but we'd rather see it as a way to enjoy your surroundings and appreciate just how fortunate we all are. Our second instalment of one handed japers, is the hand drag to blind. To say that we love a killer combo is an understatement, and this one is a sure way of jazzing up an already jazzy move – summertime is coming! Number three, almost monopod like, comes in care of Heliarde with a mighty fine version of The Hand Plant BLT. The boys in Dogtown would be proud. Have fun, enjoy playing in the water:)

C&K and Heliarde.

TOE SIDE HAND DRAG



HAND DRAG TO BLIND



HAND PLANT BLT



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## TOE SIDE HAND DRAG >

**Kite** - North Orbit 12m

**Board** - North Atmos Hybrid 133

A while back we took you through the heelside holiday shot. Seeing as things are warming up and liberty in the sense of ocean dips is returning for many, it must surely be time to enjoy the simple (ish) things. Casually gliding atop the wet stuff on your toes, caressing the water as you take the opportunity to smell the roses. Take it all in, look the business and enjoy, much like an afternoon at Henley, boater on head and Pimm's in hand.

What we're looking for here is a solid toeside, with a firm stance so that we can get leant over nicely against the kite, which will give you stability and the comfort for distance. We're not after the quick tickle of facing upwind, bending over and reaching down to the water as we stick our posteriors up to the heavens. Not quite as easy as 1, 2, 3 but with a bit of practice you'll be notching up the nautical miles in the smoothest of manners.

### Toe Side Matters Pic A

As such the first port of call is a quick toeside refresher. The aim is to get on a comfortable edge, using as much of the board as possible, so that you have maximum resistance with minimum drag, and a platform to drive against. Assuming that you have enough oomph in the kite to park and ride on your heelside, you should have ample for your toes. If we look at the Pic A and work through a few points.

1. Trim. To get in a comfortable and dynamic position



on your toes you need to be able to control the kite with 2 hands. This means that your sweet spot needs to be trimmed in a touch. This way if you need to work the kite a little you can, and even more importantly it means that you won't be pulling manically on the bar, strangling the kite and stalling it. You can see Karine has a fair bit of trim applied so that she can reach the bar with her front hand. This way she can keep the power on and balance it against her edge.

2. Stance. Your ankles let you move your weight across onto the balls of your feet. Flex them and your knees drop across to the upwind side of the board. Perfect. One caveat, if you're riding a wide board it won't be so simple. Knees should be both driving forwards, pointing to where you're going, both legs bent. This means that your back foot will need to rotate slightly in the strap. If it's painfully tight this will be tricky. Hips, they're working with your knees, facing forwards, which helps move your weight forwards,



distributing it between both feet, keeping the board down and minimising drag! Shoulders. Much like your hips they're open, actually trying to twist and be facing the bar, so the opposite of facing upwind. This helps in reaching the bar and keeping your weight forwards. And finally, your head. Karine is looking forwards, she's not staring up into the wind. She's looking over her dropped front shoulder.

This combination places the bar, you, your weight and the board in the perfect position to edge upwind. With the board between you and the kite, you are able to push against your feet and drive against the board, adding tension and increasing power. As soon as you break at the waist and bend into wind your board will flatten and you can no longer resist.

### One Handed Pic B

Next stop is controlling the kite with one hand whilst riding toeside. This is a skill that you already have,





whether walking up the beach or body dragging back to your board. The only difference is that you need to keep the power on by keeping the bar on the sweet spot. You can either butt your back hand up against the centre line, or even split your first two fingers around the centre line if it's tubing. With the kite just above the 45 degree mark get on your dynamic edge with two hands on the bar. Once you're comfortable just relax your grip on your front hand. As long as your back wrist stays strong and keeps the bar where it is and at the angle

it is at, nothing happens. If you feel the kite lift, raise your wrist and push down with the inside of your hand, just as you would body dragging. Now that you feel in control, release your front hand but keep it near the bar as Karine has in the photo. Your aim is to release the hand while nothing else changes, edge, body position, line tension. You are tricking your board and kite into believing that all is just as it was a few seconds earlier.

#### **A Purposeful Arm Part 1 Pic C**

Now that your hand is off you can actually use it to help you.

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D

Rather than simply dropping it down and swinging it behind you, hold it out and in front of you. Point to where you want to go. This way your free hand and arm are leading you. The advantages are twofold. With your arm held forwards it helps keep your hips and weight forwards, whilst also keeping your hips and shoulders open to the direction of travel. Basically, it prevents you from turning upwind and dropping your weight onto the tail of the board. You can see that Karine still has the bar held in on the sweet spot with her back hand. The kite is not rising, and she keeps her weight forwards, loads of edge in the water, and she's pushing through her legs to keep the board away from her, driving it upwind and onwards.

#### **APA Part 2 Pic D**

As long as you're comfortable with your arm held forwards and you're still moving, you can concentrate on keeping everything as it is, except your free arm. Now you can straighten it out to the side. Chances are, as with Karine in the pic, that you may not be low enough to stroke the water yet, but just keep your weight forwards and the legs driving.

#### **Ground Floor Please Pic E**

This is what you're looking for. The idea being that as long as you haven't really changed your position you can now lower yourself, not your hand, down.





If you compare this image with the previous image you can clearly see that Karine has let her bar out a smidgen. She's still edging the same, she has the same body position, she's driving against the board, but by feathering the bar out, she has dropped further away from the kite and can now reach the water. You're trying to do this through feel, not by looking at the water as that will encourage you to bend and change position. Only let the bar out incrementally, bit by bit, and once you feel the water hold it where it is and keep driving with your legs to keep tension on the lines so that the kite pulls against you and against your edge and therefore supports you.

### Balance It Pic F

From here on its back to the balancing act of power

against edge. If you feel that you're slowing or dropping too low, you may can pull on the bar. If a gust pulls you up or you accelerate you can ease the bar out. The more comfortable you get the more you can lower yourself down. The lower you get the more important it becomes to hold a bit of extra power in the bar and to really resist with your legs. Whilst nothing else changes. Yet again if you compare this image to an earlier one, the only difference is Karine's body angle. The rest from head to toes is identical – a solid and dynamic toe side. The only word of warning is that the faster you go and the more you drag your hand, your arm will move back, so concentrate on keeping your hips and weight forwards.



### Top Tips

This move is very much condition based. To learn it you'll be much happier with a larger slower kite, less gusty wind and flatter water. If the kite is too small and fast, it'll be eager to move up from the smallest input. Whilst if the wind is up and down, you'll find balancing the power tricky. And every bit of chop will try to slow you down and bounce you out of your stance. If possible, make it simpler with less variables.

If there is a mantra for learning this, it's "one thing at a time"! Get settled and only then relax your grip, remove your hand, extend your arm... This way it's easier to keep your position.





### Common Problems

It's quite possible that when you first try this you'll slow to a stop. The usual reason for this is stance. You might well be concentrating on edging and not braking at the waist, but if you lean back over the tail of the board with a straight front leg, you'll carve up into wind and slow down. Even if you get two hands back on the bar and work the kite, you'll have so much drag with your tail deep that it's game over.

Assuming that you are concentrating on the stance it's most likely because you're letting the bar out when you take one hand off, or that you haven't trimmed the kite (in fear of depowering it) and as a result are stalling

the kite. So, make sure you have the sweet spot close enough, and keep the bar on it as you release your front hand.

If you feel that you have no power once you're toeside, it's because your board is flat and therefore you have no edge to keep the tension in the lines and the power on. Don't worry about reaching for the water, rather concentrate on flexing your ankles, getting your knees across and keeping your bum down.

And finally, if you're losing control, and picking up too much speed and heading off downwind! You're either yanking the bar in whilst powered, or you're flat. Trim it in, work those ankles and make sure that you're heading upwind.

### Keystones

1. Upwind edge with trim
2. Ankles and knees, drive against board
3. Hips and shoulders open
4. Free hand forwards, then down
5. Lower by feathering bar out





## HAND DRAG TO BLIND >

**Kite** - North Orbit 12m

**Board** - North Atmos Hybrid 139

We can get quite energetic when discussing the merits of combining skills in kiting. It is at the heart of the sport, both deliberately and mistakenly bodging things together and ending up with something to be pleased with. So here's another from the Encyclopedia of killer combos. Hand dragging smokes, landing blind rocks, why on earth wouldn't you! And just to add a flourish of a finale, it warrants a decorous Ole.

It will be considerably easier to learn this by blending the two required skills, hand drag and blind. However, we'll touch again on the foundations of the hand drag, for those of you who fancy having a crack regardless :)

So, a little recap if we may.

As for all support moves there are two absolute necessities here, lift in the kite and tension on the lines. Admittedly with tension you'll have some lift, but trying to learn this in subpar conditions when you're a tad under will make life unnecessarily hard. Now assuming that you have plenty of beans in the kite, make sure you have a good solid upwind edge to put plenty of tension in your lines. This way you'll be able to feel the kite and know when it's time to go. Whilst on your edge with your kite at either 1 or 11 o'clock move your hips back. This will lower your bum and place you nearer to the water. With your posterior close to the drink, you'll need to break at the waist to



keep your bar out on the sweet spot, which you'll want relatively far away. Hence the need for power.

### The Drift Pic A

The aim is to get the kite back past 12 o'clock so that it will help you lift the board, help lift you and give you time to drag. The amount of lift, and time you have with lift, will depend on how powered you are, kite size and subtlety of kite movements. If you move the kite with enthusiasm, then it'll lift you as per a jump. If you move it with extra caution, you'll have no lift. Somewhere in between, a fast drifting action, or a slow send, which gets the kite moving without generating heaps of power is the goal. Whilst drifting the kite back concentrate on keeping your edge. You need to get your body into position to get dragging quickly as you won't have much time if you intend to go blind. Christian has drifted the kite back, steering with both hands, whilst already looking back and



rolling his shoulders back in anticipation of getting the board up quickly.

### The Lift Pic B

You won't have as much drag time when learning this as you still need some lift to throw the blind. Hence the earlier you get the hand in and dragging, the longer it'll look! That said there is a fair bit of multitasking going on here. As you feel that the kite is lifting you need to feather the bar out so that it doesn't lift too much, whilst allowing you to get it behind 12 o'clock. You then need to stop the kite moving, by levelling the bar. You need to lean back and get your hand wet. And you need to pick your board up off the water. Looking at the photo you can see that Christian is leaning massively back towards the tail of the board, his shoulders are parallel with his centre line. This coupled with a controlled amount of lift allows him to dip his hand in super early.





C

He's got his bar level and he's quite literally lifting his knees up into his chest to lift the board off the water. Drag already in motion.

### **Board Up Pic C**

With the kite halted back past 12 o'clock, all you need to do is pull a little on the bar for some support to lift you a touch more. As long as you keep your free hand down near the water, dragging it and washing it to your heart's content, this will continue to roll your shoulders back further. With your harness hook acting as the fulcrum point, this will rock your board up in front of you. The only tricky bit is that you need to be sensitive to the bar. You need to keep enough power on to hold you up and lift you back, but too much and your caressing hand will be lifted clear off the water, whilst too little and you'll already be dropping your hips back down and it's game over. Added to this, you must avoid steering it forwards when looking for support, or else it'll all be over in a jiffy. Here Christian's board and shoulders are perpendicular to the water, board pointing skywards, hand happily dragging on an extended arm. It's worth pondering that the higher you get yourself off the water, the easier it will be to get around to blind, so make sure you're stretching to keep your hand in. If you're already have this part in the bag, now is where it gets interesting.

### **The New Bit - Throwing It Pic D**

Previously it was all about the longest wash possible, maximum efficiency. Now however you need to get yourself turning for the blind before you lose lift, or else you just won't have room or time. As with pretty much everything in this wonderful life of ours, timing is key. If you're already a hand dragging master, you'll have your timing down pat as to when you drop your legs in order to ride away smoothly. Here it needs to be earlier as there's more to do. If you're still unsure, think of it thus.





As the kite drifts back over 12 o'clock you'll get a touch more lift before it evaporates like rain drops on hot tarmac. To add insult to injury, landing blind often requires you to sheet the bar out, dumping power that's already changing state! This means that whilst learning this, going at 12 is as late as you should leave it. There is however some good news too, you can use gravity to help you turn to blind. If we have a look at Christian, he's scissoring his feet, pushing his high front foot across downwind, whilst lifting his back foot upwind and towards his bum. He's also using his dragging hand to swim himself around (as you did back when learning to water start). Final piece here, he's initially pulling on his front hand as well to help with the rotation and keep the kite moving forwards.



### Stomping It Pic E

As the nose of the board drops this should look vaguely familiar to the blind riders amongst you. Landing blind hooked in from an upwind position likes a nose first entry to help the board rotate and pivot that last little bit. As per Christian, keep your head down and your back foot up. You can see that the kite is high. This is both a blessing and a curse. Good news is that it's still holding Christian up and giving him time. Bad news is that when he lands, he'll have no more momentum. As at this point, keep the bar in on the sweet spot to drift the kite forwards. This may inhibit you turning as much as you'd like but hopefully the nose will push you around that last bit.



### Ole Pic F

Whether you intend to ride out blind, spin it back around, or push through into a cheeky Ole you will need to release tension in the lines for landing. If truth be told the Ole fits well as it's a reliable solution to any blind landing with a high kite. Landing upright Christian sheets the bar out and pushes it upwind and across in front of him, whilst gently dropping his weight onto his feet to flatten the board. You don't want to be edging whilst Oleing! Note even though Christian has his bar right out he is already steering the kite down with his front hand. This way as soon as he finishes the Ole, he can pull the bar down onto the sweet spot and the kite will immediately pull him.





### Top Tips

One word and that's early, everything early. From getting you hand in, board up and rotating to blind. Whilst learning, the early bird definitely catches the worm. Once you've got the sequence in the bag you can then add on some distance and experiment with throwing the blind later.

It's very likely that when you start trying this, you'll struggle to get around enough to blind. The solution is to make sure that you sheet your bar out when you rotate, otherwise the kite will pull you back. Only slight problem is that then you'll probably have the kite too high to keep moving. Settle for the blind

landing to get the movement, and then move onto getting the kite forwards.

Righty ho, time to have a gander at the videos and sequence to see this as a whole!!!

### Common Mistakes

The things that will likely fox you are no time, no height, too much height, can't turn and kite too far back when you think you've stomped it. We've pretty much covered them above, so concentrate on the early, making sure you're dragging high and let the bar out once you've thrown the blind.

### Keystones

1. Head and shoulders back on approach
2. Drag early & board high
3. Throw blind, scissor legs and swim arm by 12 o'clock
4. Bar out once turning
5. Flatten board, Ole and steer





## HAND PLANT BLT >

**Kite** - North Orbit 12m

**Board** - North Atmos Carbon 138

Here's an absolute banger of a transition from the main man himself, Heliarde. No skateparks in the vicinity, but if this move isn't straight out of some old school, dried out pool skater bowl action, we'll eat our board bags.

Parental advisory, not suitable for most wind directions! Cross off in some sandy lagoon is obviously ideal, you can at a scrape get away with cross once you're proficient, but anything with a sniff of on in it, well needless to say, it's a no go.

To give this a bash you're fundamental move is a handwash back roll transition, without a kitemove. The great thing is that there are many possible bail options here should it not work out, which result in a gentle dropping onto sand as it's all about speed and height management. Anything involving a loop over the beach or shallows is a bit silly. So get the hand wash BLT without a loop in the bag first and then we'll talk...

### The Approach Pic A

The Hand Plant BLT is essentially a support move, it's just that you intend to stop over terra firma. As such you'll be wanting lift in your kite and tension on your lines, without any boy racer speed. This means that you need to come in on a decent edge, with your weight dropped low upwind, and resisting hard. This way you can keep control as you drift the kite up.



Start with your kite at the familiar 11 or 1 o'clock before steering it up towards 12. At what point or distance from the beach will depend on wind angle, kite size, board speed and trim, so best give it a couple of tries to land on the beach without any rolls just to get your bearings. Heliarde approaches with enough speed to make the kite feel alive with lift, he's edging and he's steered the kite up. As soon as the kite moves he lets the bar out and drops his front hand, so that he is able to carve up into the wind.

### Brakes On Pic B

With the bar out you can carve up into the wind to slow down as you near the beach. This needs to be done with some aggression, so do resist with your legs. This not only slows you down but the turning up action will be the initiation into your back roll.



As soon as you slow enough, you need to stop the kite moving, as it should only sneak up to 12 o'clock, or a fraction past. You also need to rock your weight back in preparation for lifting the board. Looking at Heliarde, he's leaning back, carving up and he's pulling the bar in to get control of the kite.

### Double or Nothing Pic C

Now it's time to commit. It's a big IF, but if you slowed enough, carved enough and stopped the kite you've got nothing to worry about. Next aim is to get the board up. Just like in the backroll handwash, you will lift it up with you knees, rocking it up as you drop your shoulder further back. There's no popping or jumping. Your objective is to get the board up, without gaining any height. This means that should you doubt the outcome at anytime, you can simply ease the bar out and you'll drop gently down.





You can see that Heliarde is still low to the water, he's rocking back and lifting the board up. His bar is in, level on the sweet spot and he's turning his head to help with the rotation whilst focusing on the beach. At the moment you can be happy in this position, any thoughts of inversion and showmanship can wait.

#### Hand Down Pic D

Now it's a matter of patience and control. You should hardly be



moving, and if you are you can slow yourself by easing the bar in further. With the kite just behind you, it'll act as a brake. Extend your free arm down to make contact with the beach. Once you touch the sand you have your feeler out, so you can either pull in on the bar if you're too low, or feather it out if your barely reaching it. If you're planning on styling it out this is the time to start boning the board. Keep your front knee in whilst extending your back leg, foot up to the sky.




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E

Looking at the pic, Heliarde still has the bar level, on the sweet spot, he's boning the board up and is rotating around his hand.

### Money Shot Pic E

As Europeans born considerably the wrong side of the Millenium it's not a word we use frequently, but it does rather fit the moment, pure steeze! And utter concentration. Belly free t-shirts, white knee pads with rainbow straps, cut of jeans and you've got the picture of how it once was. This is the moment when you can press the pause button, a short stall, get the product placement in and then off you go. It's all about support here, not actually holding yourself up on your arm, and your kite position will mean the world. Too far back and it'll pull you away, a couple of degrees past 12 and your in float town. What you can't see is that Heliarde now has his bar pulled in further. He's also got his eyes on his escape route. Yet again it's no drama, if you're too greedy with the pause you'll just loose lift and flutter down.

### Lift Off Pic F

This is the confidence phase, as once you pull the trigger to get back out there, you're asking for power and pull. The secret at the beginning is to make sure that you plant at the waters edge. This way, if it goes Pete Tong you'll merely get wet. Yet again this is about kite position and tension.





You need to get your kite moving away from the beach to pull you back onto the water, and you also want some lift to give yourself time to get your board back down. Heliarde pulls hard on his back hand to steer the kite, and pulls the bar in further to ask for a bit more lift. As the kite pulls, as long as you look where you want to go, you will keep rotating around the back roll.

### Done & Dusted Pic G

Your landing should be bread and butter. Keep the kite diving for acceleration and pull. Drop your

undercarriage, get the board down and keep the bar in to both help you finish the rotation and keep the power on. Heliarde has ticked all the boxes.

### Top Tips

Couple of things to dial in pre your first attempts. Try a few Hand Wash BLTs without the kite loop, to get a feel for the power in your kite, the support it's offering and your spatial awareness going. Then try a couple of approaches to test speed and distance. Aiming to stop on the beach, rather than plough up it. Once you're happy get these two married up and it's all systems go.



It's also worth pondering that as with all support moves, the bigger the kite, the easier it'll be. You'll get more lift from a slower approach, have more static lift to support your plant, and your kite will move across and through 12 o'clock more slowly. There's three positives.

Have a look at the sequence and the videos to see the move in full.

### Common Problems

Speed control. It's too easy to come in slowly, but without an edge and therefore still end up flying up the beach. If you're travelling too much,





be more aggressive with your carve, stamp the board upwind so that you're pushing on the pedal.

If you end up sitting down or on your back, without enough height. Chances are that you've let the kite drift too far back before lifting off. Make sure you stop it at 12, which you can only do if you pull the bar back in.

Not getting any lift post plant. Yet again make sure the kite is high. If you don't have much power, there is the danger that you'll stall the kite as you pull the

bar in, so use more send and less stall.

### Keystones

1. Medium speed, maximum tension
2. Drift with bar out, hand off
3. Lean back & carve hard upwind
4. Bar in, lift legs, feel the beach
5. Turn head, bar in, dive kite.







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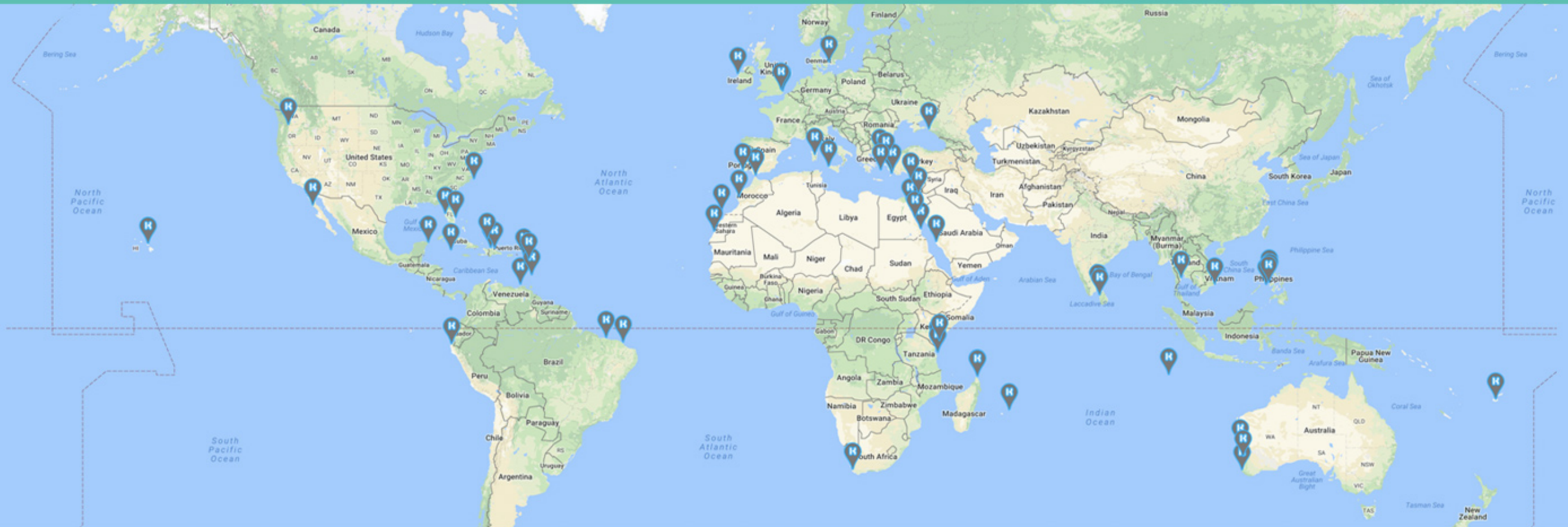
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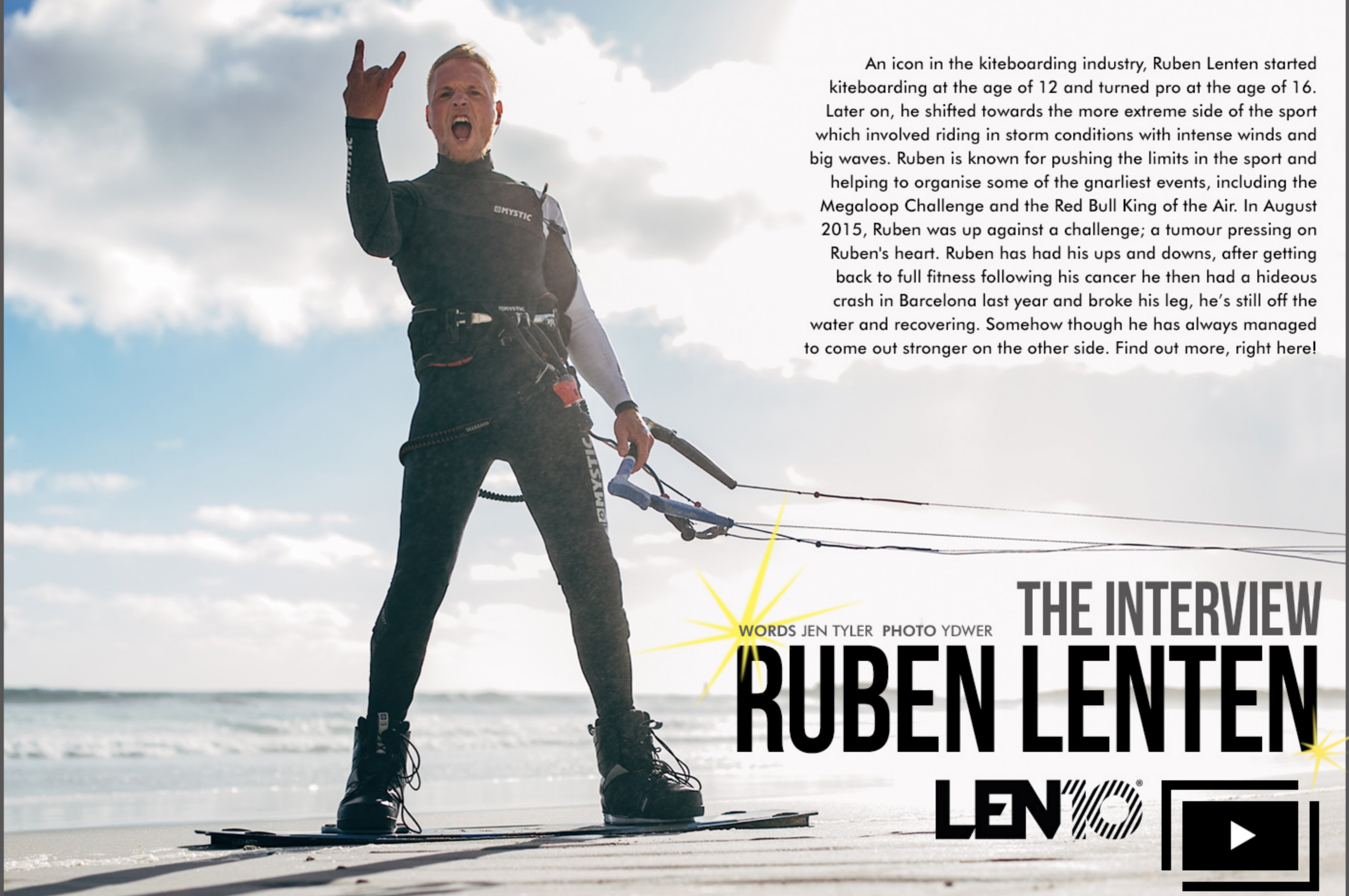


CAPE TOWN



MAUI





An icon in the kiteboarding industry, Ruben Lenten started kiteboarding at the age of 12 and turned pro at the age of 16. Later on, he shifted towards the more extreme side of the sport which involved riding in storm conditions with intense winds and big waves. Ruben is known for pushing the limits in the sport and helping to organise some of the gnarliest events, including the Megaloop Challenge and the Red Bull King of the Air. In August 2015, Ruben was up against a challenge; a tumour pressing on Ruben's heart. Ruben has had his ups and downs, after getting back to full fitness following his cancer he then had a hideous crash in Barcelona last year and broke his leg, he's still off the water and recovering. Somehow though he has always managed to come out stronger on the other side. Find out more, right here!

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTO YDWER

THE INTERVIEW

# RUBEN LENTEN

LEN 





**Ruben, how have you been? We hope you've been staying safe and sane during the lockdown! How have you been spending your days?**

Hi Jen, I hope all is well with you and your family, thanks for getting in touch! Things are pretty good here, despite not being able to kiteboard nor travel the world, as usual, I feel like we're in a perfect place during COVID-19 times.

The whole world is upside down and going through a process of some serious changes, while everyone has their own struggles, Nikki, and I are definitely both keeping busy with work, yoga, and now we've got a little one on the way, due 25th of November, so that's very exciting! We're moving to a new house soon, and I've got to go in for an ankle arthrodesis surgery on the 9th of June. So, there's quite a bit going on!

**You've been kiteboarding since you were 12 years old and continue to leave your mark on the kiteboarding scene. What's next?**

Wow, time flies when you're having fun, 20 years of kiteboarding already. What's next? I'm focusing on getting my ankle to a point where I can stand on my kiteboard again. In the meantime, I'm working on sharing my knowledge with the next generation and other kites through a masterclass or team rider membership so they can make the most of their careers and sessions. Currently, it's an unsupported journey for the next generation. We've inspired them to become pro-kiteboarders, but what does that even mean and how does it work? That's something I'd like to share and give them the knowledge on how to proceed to achieve their dreams.



**“ THINGS ARE PRETTY GOOD HERE, DESPITE NOT BEING ABLE TO KITEBOARD NOR TRAVEL THE WORLD ”**





## “ IT'S ALWAYS A BLAST BRINGING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TOGETHER ”

**If you go could back in time, and relive a moment, what would it be?**

Going back in time is dangerous, haha! The most memorable moments for me would have to be my wedding day, riding storms, jumping piers and the cliff in Norway. Yup, more of that, please!

**Can you tell us a little bit about the LEN10 Experience? How has the pandemic affected your business? Have you been**

**able to persuade clients to reschedule rather than cancel?**

I can't wait to go back to Brazil for another LEN10 Experience; it's always a blast bringing people from all over the world together for a week of kiteboarding, dining, partying, and adventure. Throughout the week, we make sure we kite at the best spots while making sure everyone feels safe, comfortable and supported during their sessions. During the theoretical lessons and coaching, it's rewarding to see people fully comprehend what they might be doing wrong and how to progress. We run the events in Brazil and Cape Town,

and for now, we've decided to reschedule this year's events to 2021, as it's still too uncertain to plan anything for now. Also, with the baby and surgery coming up and people are hesitant to travel, I don't want to add stress to our lives. I look forward to next year when we're in the groove again!

**A year ago, almost to the day, you had a pretty horrific accident in Barcelona, can you tell us what happened?**

Ah, what a day! On the 19th of April 2019, Day 1 of my 6-month road trip with a camera crew, I accidentally hit my quick release with my hand causing me to free-fall 8 meters and land on my board which caused my ankle to shatter in 20 pieces.



“EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON, AND I'M MAKING THE MOST OF MY TIME, WITH THE THINGS I CAN DO.”

PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY



Luckily, I had an outstanding trauma surgeon, Dr Christian Wilchess, which was able to fix me up with Stryker plates and screws. It was a gnarly fracture, and most of my cartilage had smashed off, and now 13 months later, I'm still in pain, as it's bone on bone in my ankle. I'm booked in for another surgery to fuse my ankle together. Unfortunately, I will be unable to move my foot up and down, but hopefully, there will be no more pain.

**How has the road to recovery been, and what sort of challenges you have been facing?**

The moment I crashed, I knew I smashed my ankle, and as it's not my first rodeo, I learned to keep calm, keep happy, and look on the bright side. That's what's keeping me sane and positive.

I'm not going to lie; it's been a tough journey. I had hoped for the pain to subside, and actually thought I'd be riding by now, but with a rough joint line and no cartilage, I'm still limping. The biggest challenge is trying to stay optimistic instead of frustrated. When I think back about all the things, I had planned that year, I get upset, which is pointless! Everything happens for a reason, and I'm making the most of my time, with the things I can do. I'm working with Ozone on custom gear which has been amazing; many people got involved in the competition and adding their graphics and logos to their kite and board.

I'm looking forward to the next surgery, and with 'nurse' Nikki by my side, I'm sure I can face whatever challenges are thrown at me!





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**Nikki has always been there during the ups and downs, which can equally be a rollercoaster ride! How has that helped you on your journey?**

What goes up, must come down and what goes down, must come up! Nikki has been the best partner I could wish for, I never thought I'd get married, but then it hit me, and I knew she was the one! Such a pure and kind energy; I love her! We make a good team, and all these challenges make us stronger as individuals, but also together. It could've easily driven us apart, but instead, it has brought us much more understanding of who we are, and what we love about life. We challenge and support each other, and that's how we keep growing.

**2015 was undeniably the most challenging year for you, how did battling cancer change your perspective towards life?**

Oh, Absolutely. Having 30 litres of the heaviest chemo pumped through my body was the toughest thing I've ever been through. Yet, it has given me the most perspective, so for that, I'm grateful. In the hospital, I quickly learned that it could always be worse and that I'm very thankful and have tremendous respect for doctors and nurses. I got a 2nd chance at life, and I'm living it my way.

**You've had your fair share of ups and downs, but yet you grab any situation by the horns, and emit positivity and strength, how do you do that?**

I've had the time to dive into a personal and spiritual development journey during my recovery. A very dear friend of mine invited me to his course called IDiscover360, a deep study in human behaviour. I learned a lot about myself, others, life and nature.



**“ WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM,  
AND ALL THESE  
CHALLENGES MAKE US  
STRONGER AS INDIVIDUALS,  
BUT ALSO TOGETHER. ”**





**“ BELIEVING IN MYSELF AND FOLLOWING MY HEART, I’VE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE A LIFE THAT I LOVE. ”**

Every obstacle or challenge you face in life has similar drawbacks and benefits; "every cloud has a silver lining."

Whenever you face a challenge, try to turn it into an opportunity. It's a never-ending practice, and a lot easier said, than done, but when you get it right, it really does save you a lot of heartaches.

**What would be your career highlight?**

My career highlight is that by believing in

myself and following my heart, I've been able to create a life that I love. Sustaining a career in kiteboarding isn't easy. It's a reasonably small industry, and working with sponsors can be challenging, but it's made me creative and able to develop my brand, LEN10.

I'm looking forward to seeing how things will unfold over time.

**You're an ambassador for Sustainable Surf, could you tell us about the project?**

Yes, I've been working with Sustainable Surf for a few years now. They're a non-profit organisation which helps companies rethink and restructure the way they create and

reuse waste. For example, in Kelly Slater's Wavepool, they've used the waste from surfboard shapers to press tiles on the floor. That's just one example, but they're phenomenal at helping companies making a switch to new, eco-friendly materials.

**You've got a passion for music and have been spotted on the decks many times. What is it about DJ'ing that you enjoy most?**

Music has always been a part of my life. I've always loved electronic music, and it's continuously made me feel home wherever I travel in the world. I love how music sets the vibe for when people are enjoying the moment together. I enjoy listening, browsing, and sorting music daily!



PHOTO YDWER



**How many years have you been with Mystic, and what role do you play in the R&D?**

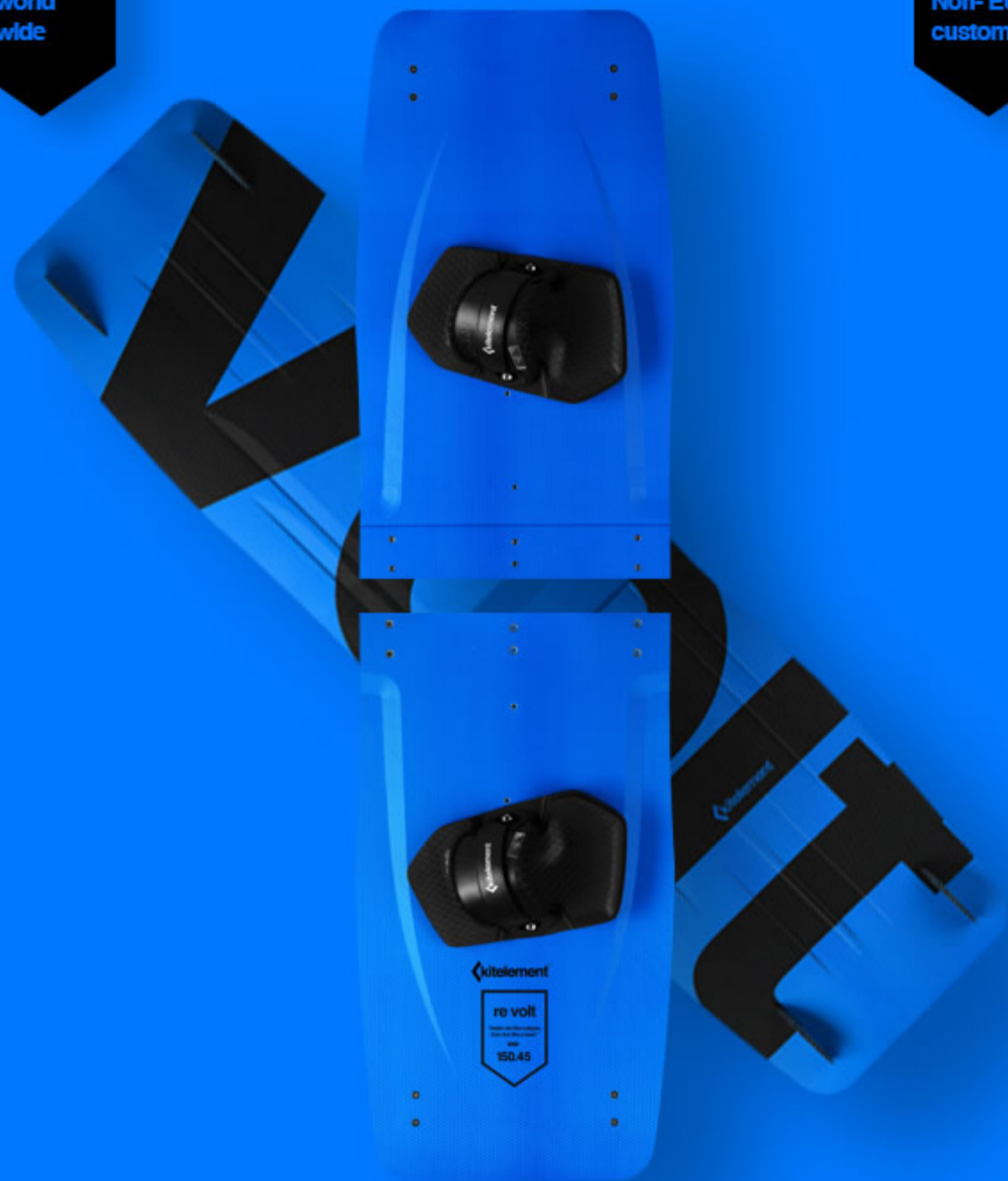
I've been with Mystic for over 15 years, and it's incredible to see where they are now. I'm very proud of the team for always pushing things to the next level, whether it's product development, branding, exposure, or teamwork. I've had my signature LEN10 line there since 2008 and worked together with the team on many other products. The R&D team is very professional, and I only give input for the features and graphics but mostly just testing their newest technologies and inventions.

**“ I'M VERY PROUD OF THE TEAM FOR ALWAYS PUSHING THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL ”**

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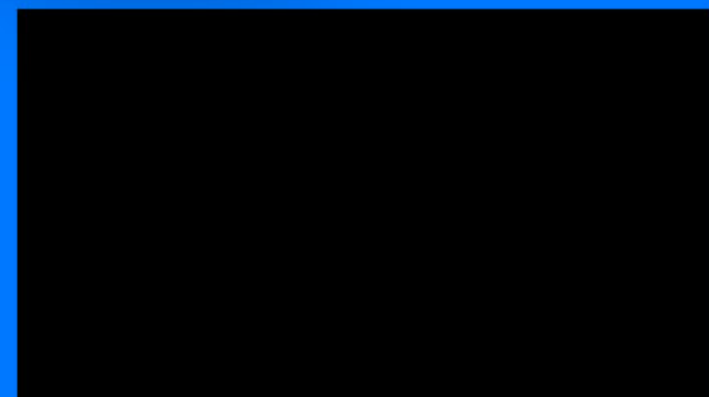


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**“ IT DID EVERYTHING I WANTED, AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS SO GOOD WITHOUT ME EVEN GETTING INVOLVED! ”**



**What is your Ozone set up of choice? Have you gotten involved with their R&D over the past year?**

I initially got in touch with Ozone for the first time because I wanted to have my sponsor logos on my kite and as they own their own factory, they could produce those kites for me. I rode the C4 for a bit, which was OK but was lacking some power and direct feel, for me. Then they developed the Amp V1 before I started actually working with them, and this kite blew my mind! It did everything I wanted, and I couldn't believe it was so good without me even getting involved! I added the LEN10 settings, so you get some more power and direct feel out of it and been loving it ever since. Board wise, the Torque V1 has been my favourite board for riding hard and flying high. It's been great getting involved with the team as they're so passionate about creating the perfect products for a variety of disciplines and riding styles. They're the only kite company that owns their own factory which allows them to be in full control.

**Are there any exciting plans you'd like to share with us?**

Keep an eye out for a LEN10 Masterclass, if you want to learn more on how to make the most of kiting and fulfilling your dreams. With the surgery, house move, and baby coming up, there's lots of excitement to share with you guys. Make sure you get in touch on Instagram, Facebook or YouTube - much love!

**Thank you, Ruben! It's been a pleasure!**



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# TRIED & TESTED

With a few of the test team back on the water we managed to get some kites, twin tips and foil boards ridden in the last few weeks, just in time for this issue, We have kites from Core, Liquid Force and Ozone, twin tips from Liquid Force and Kitelement and some foil set ups from CrazyFly, Duotone and Liquid Force!

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM  
PHOTO THIS PAGE CRAZYFLY

## KITES

CORE Nexus 2  
Liquid Force NV  
Ozone Zephyr

## TWIN TIPS

Kitelement Revolt LW  
Liquid Force Absolute

## FOILS

CrazyFly Cruz 620  
Duotone Spirit Carve 950  
Liquid Force Glider 125

## FOIL BOARDS

CrazyFly Chill  
Duotone Pace  
Liquid Force Galaxy





BRAND CORE MODEL NEXUS 2 SIZE 8M YEAR 2020



“ A CROSSOVER  
KITE WHICH HAS  
THE BEST OF  
BOTH WORLDS ”



## AT A GLANCE

CORE's Nexus burst on to the scene a few years ago now and already has a firm following of committed riders. The Nexus 2 keeps to its main ethos as part of the Universal+ series, it is a hybrid kite designed with looping, wave riding and freestyle in mind.

Like most in its class, the Nexus 2 houses 3 struts, a simple bridle system and the Future-C shape design. Taking inspiration and elements from both the Section and GTS, the Nexus houses the changeable CIT bridle modes for fast modification, and the Surf Profile which is a slightly lower profile for increased drifting ability.

New for the Nexus 2 are the Radical Reaction Tips. This is a modified wing tip design whereby the leading edge profile between the front bridle and back lines has been altered to both improve agility and control in waves, and also a slightly widened wing tip shape improves the agility and relaunch of the Nexus 2.

Attention to detail and build quality come as standard with any product from CORE.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE





BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL NV SIZE 1.5M YEAR 2020



" THE 2020 NV IS A CLASSIC FOR FREERIDE AND FREESTYLE "



### AT A GLANCE

Now in its 10th consecutive year, the Liquid Force 2020 NV has a decade of development behind it. A classic hybrid freestyle design of an open C canopy, 3 struts and a short bridle system, it is the go-to option as a racier all-round kite.

For this 2020 NV, there has been a complete overhaul of the canopy design. This sees the NV benefit from squarer tips for increased response, especially when riding unhooked. An increased diameter leading edge and also a new leading to trailing edge canopy profile. All these together has resulted in a more responsive and tighter feeling kite.

In recent years, Liquid Force have really upped their construction and we can now see high end, strong, materials such as Teijin Triple Ripstop for the canopy and strong English Stitch Seams on the leading edge for maximum strength to weight. This, along with key reinforcement and bumper pads, allows you to concentrate on nailing that new trick no matter how many times you crash.

The LFK high volume Max Flow one-pump system makes set up times record breaking, and the deflates are fast and simple too.

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BRAND OZONE MODEL ZEPHYR V6 SIZE 17M YEAR 2020



"YOU COULDN'T WANT FOR MUCH MORE OUT OF A LIGHT WIND KITE"

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



### AT A GLANCE

We are now seeing a huge variety of different light wind kites on the market; we see traditional foil kites as well as LEI's aimed at foiling, with some LEI's tailored more towards freestyle or freeride. One of the popular models you see down the beach is the Ozone Zephyr, a 17m all-round light wind LEI kite.

A well-known name in the big kite market, the Ozone Zephyr has undergone a revamp for this V6 model. This version brings modifications to the kite's profile, revised sail tension and refined bridle. These updates to the Zephyr V6 are aimed at providing more stability in the canopy for a smoother ride, improved bar feel and wind range.

The Zephyr V6 is a mid-high aspect kite, boasting Ozone's usual bombproof construction, pulley-less bridle and new for V6 we see larger leading edge and strut re-enforcements as well as a patch added above the one pump valve.

When picking a control bar for the Zephyr you can't go wrong with the 55cm Ozone Contact V4. However, depending on your riding style, you may like to fly this on a smaller bar such as the 45cm or 38cm for unhooked freestyle.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



" YOU COULD FIND YOURSELF FORGETTING YOU'RE ON A LIGHT WIND BOARD. "



**BRAND** KITELEMENT **MODEL** REVOLT BLUE LW  
**SIZE** 150 X 45CM **YEAR** 2020

#### AT A GLANCE

With advances in board design large twin tips are becoming more popular down the beach. Just because a board is large doesn't mean you're going to get the classic door style ride of the past.

We recently got our hands on the new Kitelement Revolt Blue LW. This 150 x 45cm twin tip has a couple of key features which make it stand out from the crowd! Like others in the Kitelement range, it's a splitboard!

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" STRIKING IN BOTH LOOKS AND FEEL "



**BRAND** LIQUID FORCE KITES **MODEL** ABSOLUTE  
**SIZE** 136 X 41.7 **YEAR** 2020

#### AT A GLANCE

New player in the game, the Absolute, is the combination of Liquid Force's years on the scene and the idea of a limitless design. Without having any cost or material constraints, the designers were let loose and the end product is an impressive high-end carbon affair.

The Absolute has a light weight CNC milled divinycell wooden core, a double concave V-hull base, tapered tips and outer layers of Textreme carbon to and bottom sheets for the carbon finish.

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BRAND CRAZYFLY

MODEL CRUZ

SIZE 690

YEAR 2020



" PERFECT FOR RIDERS WANTING A BIT MORE PERFORMANCE FROM THEIR WINGS. "



### AT A GLANCE

The all new Cruz 690 is a fresh design from CrazyFly aimed at the freeride foilers out there looking for something fun. By modern standards it looks small, but where it lacks size it makes up for with a deep angled profile. Built using a combination of injected carbon in the wings and aluminium for the fuselage and mast it makes for a compelling set up for those wanting performance without breaking the bank.

The whole set up is very light, but it does lack some of the features of the heavier foils on the market. The wings are beautifully made and should be very hard wearing too. The injected carbon creates an incredibly light and strong composite. The mast is filled with air and sealed off to add buoyancy, this ensures even with the smallest board in the CrazyFly range there is no chance of it sinking.

CrazyFly offer a range of masts to go with the set up, from 50cm to 90cm in 10cm increments there should be the perfect length for your level and style of riding.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL SPIRIT CARVE

SIZE 950

YEAR 2020



"A BEAUTIFULLY PUT TOGETHER PRODUCT THAT IS A JOY TO RIDE"



### AT A GLANCE

Duotone were relatively late to the foiling party compared to some brands out there, however by biding their time they have hit the market running with an exceedingly polished product. The range has grown in recent years and the new Spirit Carve 950 is one of 8 foil setups in the range. Aimed at the freerider and beginner to intermediate riders out there it's a wide stable base platform that offers lots of lift.

Construction is a mix of carbon and aluminium, something a lot of brands are embracing these days. The Spirit Carve range features full carbon wings with aluminium masts and fuselages. Fixtures and fittings are super high quality as you would expect and the whole product feels extremely well thought out when you bolt it all together.

Depending on your style this will suit a lot of riders, from the first timer foiler to the hardened pro in the waves. It's not designed to be fast, but it is designed to be fun and easy to ride.

### ON THE WATER

The Spirit Carve 950 was a dream to ride on the water, when we talk about kites we always say they are very subjective,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE





BRAND LIQUID FORCE    MODEL GLIDER FOIL    SIZE 125 GLIDER    YEAR 2020

“A PERFECTLY CRUISEY, EASY TO RIDE, WELL-BUILT FOIL.”



### AT A GLANCE

With foiling booming not only in kitesurfing, but across a vast number of watersports, surfing, windsurfing, SUP, wake, sailing and more, we are seeing many brands put forward a crossover option. This issue we got to check out the Liquid Force Glider Foil.

The Glider foil setup is a carbon composite 125 wing set with a 36" mast. We're looking at a kite foiling length mast coupled with the huge lift provided by a 125 wing set: dreamy. The aluminum mast and fuselage have been refined to blend into one another and the wing sets which gives us less drag and a smoother ride.

One sweet feature on the Liquid Force foils is the Quick Release collar, this enables you to assemble and detach the foil from the board with only one screw. Less faff, more time on the water. Another much appreciated addition to the LFK foils is the sweet foil bag, which includes wing covers, tool and grease in a handy travel bag to keep your new toy safe!

The Glider comes with the 36" mast and 125 Glider wing set, however all parts are modular within the line-up.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE







" COMPACT, FUN  
TO RIDE AND  
STIFF "



**BRAND** CRAZYFLY  
**SIZE** 115

**MODEL** CHILL  
**YEAR** 2020

#### AT A GLANCE

The Chill is a low volume all round freeride board from CrazyFly. Built using a high-quality twin tip construction it is designed to be a durable platform for all your foiling adventures. It's a short design available in two sizes, the 115 we have on test and the 130. Both models feature a wide nose with plenty of nose rocker.

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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C A P S U L E  
C O L L E C T I O N

MUSE





" ON THE WATER  
AND IN THE AIR IT  
DELIVERED TOO. "



**BRAND** DUOTONE  
**SIZE** 4'6"

**MODEL** PACE  
**YEAR** 2020

#### AT A GLANCE

The Pace is a short stubby freeride board that makes up one of four in the range. The more race orientated Indy offers performance, while the Free is a more stripped down twin tip construction affair. The Hybrid Whip offers a surfboard platform with inserts whereas the Pace is a bona fide freeride foil board dedicated to making your time on and above the water memorable.

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



" A REALLY SOLID  
BIT OF KIT,  
IN BOTH  
CONSTRUCTION  
AND DESIGN "



**BRAND** LIQUID FORCE KITES  
**MODEL** GALAXY FOILBOARD

**SIZE** 4' 8"  
**YEAR** 2020

#### AT A GLANCE

Foiling is booming across many watersports. We are seeing crossover boards, high performance boards, low volume, high volume, race and more varieties. For this issue we had the chance to try out the Liquid Force Galaxy foilboard. This board is a high performance, high volume foilboard with a track attachment system.

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



# PROFILE: CAMDYN KELLET

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTOS ANDREW KELLETT

Born and raised in South Africa, Camdyn Kellet is an adventurer, videographer, and big air addict. Read his interview to find out how it all began for Camdyn, his family, his passions and how he plans to join the sport's big air legends!





" HE IS MY BIGGEST INSPIRATION AND MY BIGGEST SUPPORTER FOR BOTH KAYAKING AND KITEBOARDING. "

CAMDYN, IT'S GREAT TO MEET YOU! COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF? WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? HOW DID YOU GET INTO KITEBOARDING?

Thanks for this awesome opportunity! Growing up, I had a slightly different childhood than most kids. My parents own an adventure tourism company based in Cape Town called Gravity Adventures. Our company specialises in wilderness rafting trips on South Africa's largest river; the Orange River. My parents took me on my first river trip when I was only six months old, and nowadays, I work there as an adventure guide.

My father is a true waterman. He grew up in Cape Town and found his passion as a professional white-water kayaker. Living in Cape Town, he learned to kiteboard in the mid-2000s and has been kiteboarding ever since. He is my biggest inspiration and my biggest supporter for both kayaking and kiteboarding. My first memory of kiteboarding is when I would ride doubles between my dad's legs. When I was 14 years old, I started taking kiteboarding and wakeboarding lessons. I used to surf loads, but I got tired of the overcrowded surf spots around Cape Town and started focussing mainly on kiteboarding.

I didn't quite fit in at school, but when I was 17 years old, I got a scholarship to attend the World Class Kiteboard Academy. My progression in both my riding and my academics was staggering. Imagine spending your time travelling to the worlds' best kite spots with kids from all over, living and working together, experiencing worldwide local cultures and riding whenever possible – it was a dream come true!







## WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INTO BIG AIR?

After a few seasons of training, I started landing new tricks more often, jumping higher and experimenting with backroll kite loops. The turning point for me was during a wild session at Kite Beach. I was out on my 6m, and I had been practising my backroll kitemanoeuvres, but I had never landed any regular kitemanoeuvres before. I remember tacking out, and then I hit a gust, at that point, I knew that I needed to send it! I hit the wave at an insane speed and launched upwards. I pulled the loop way too early and got yanked pretty high, at this time I didn't really know what a downloop was, so I crashed, really hard! I don't think that I have ever been that stoked in my entire life! It was then and there that I became addicted to big air.

" I HIT THE WAVE AT AN INSANE SPEED AND LAUNCHED UPWARDS. "

# THIS BOARD IS FOR LOSERS

SOMETIMES, EVEN THE MOST EXPERIENCED RIDERS LOSE THEIR BOARD. OUR BOARDS & KITES NOW HAVE NFC TAGS TO MAKE IT EASY TO FIND YOUR GEAR. THIS INNOVATION IS BRAND INDEPENDENT AND AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE!



NFC







“ COMPETITION IS A REALLY GREAT WAY TO BENCHMARK YOUR PROGRESSION, EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST COMPETING FOR FUN. ”

**WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES, IF YOU HAD TO PICK JUST ONE, WHAT WOULD BE TOP OF THE LIST?**

I would like to say that it would be a tough choice, but it really isn't! For me, kiteboarding is all about big air, boosts and fat loops! Kiteboarders come to Cape Town for one thing - big air, and as a beginner, it was awesome to share the water with the same pro's that you see in the magazines! Looping in 35 knots and feeling the pull of the kite is just indescribable and it's that feeling that keeps me hooked.

Once I was steadily progressing with big air, I remember seeing a video of Philipp Zach looping

ridiculously low on short lines in Hermanus. That video ignited my interest in short lines, so I decided to get an old bar set up with some short lines. At first, I didn't really know what length I should go for, but I knew that I wanted to try something new and different. I ended up getting a set of 9m lines on a 44cm bar. With short lines you can loop the kite so low it's actually ridiculous!

**HOW AND WHEN DID YOU FIRST START COMPETING? IS BEING A PRO RIDER A DIRECTION YOU'D LIKE TO CONTINUE IN, OR IS IT SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO DO ON THE SIDE?**

The first competition I ever entered was set up by

WCKA to simulate the GKA Freestyle format. Freestyle was brand new to me, and I had really only been unhooking for about two weeks at that point! Unsurprisingly, I didn't do particularly well, but I learned so much and nearly landed a new trick. I think that competition is a really great way to benchmark your progression, even if you're just competing for fun.

As a big air rider, based in Cape Town, I don't think it will really be possible to compete as a profession - there are just not enough competitions to ride in and make a living on. However, I will still enter every big air competition.



## WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER PASSIONS BESIDES KITEBOARDING?

I have had a deep connection to the ocean since I was a little baby. I try to get a session in at least three times a week. If there's no wind, then the surf will be clean. Surfing and kiting are pretty good complimentary sports, and they keep you fit. Lifesaving was also an important activity for me as a teen – it's great for fitness, and I enjoyed the fact that it's a community service. I also love white water kayaking and have paddled some incredible African rivers like the Zambezi, White Nile and Tana.

When I first joined WCKA, I really wanted to document my experiences, and I decided to pick up the camera and learn to make videos. It became a passion of mine, and I really enjoy seeing an idea turned into reality. Along with filming comes the editing. I definitely don't enjoy editing as much as filming, but the two go hand in hand.

Not many people know this about me, but I am a bit of a nerd! Since I was young, I was always taking old broken electronics apart to find out how they worked. As I got older, I discovered that you can build computers! I have channelled that passion into something useful, and I now run a small business that repairs and upgrades older computers to avoid them being thrown away. This approach is great for the environment as it saves a whole computer from ending up in the dump.

“ SURFING AND KITING ARE PRETTY GOOD COMPLIMENTARY SPORTS, AND THEY KEEP YOU FIT. ”







HOW DO YOU BALANCE STUDYING, TRAINING, KITEBOARDING, FAMILY AND MAKING TIME TO HANG OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

In Cape Town, there are many non-windy days, especially in winter, so I don't have to worry about making time to hang out with my non-kiteboarding friends. When I was at school, being able to kite was a bit of an issue, but luckily the wind blows the strongest in the evenings.

I had planned to take a gap year this year, and I was supposed to be travelling and kiteboarding, but COVID-19 has put a spanner in the works. I'm still trying to decide what to study, but am thinking of something in the design field; who knows, maybe one day I'll work as a designer for Cabrinha!

"MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL WORK AS A DESIGNER FOR CABRINHA!"



DEDICATED TO  
KITEBOARDING  
SINCE 2001



“ I AM REALLY GRATEFUL THAT I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT THE BRAND AFTER IT HAS GIVEN ME SO MUCH PLEASURE OVER THE YEARS. ”

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RIDING FOR CABRINHA, AND WHAT IS YOUR QUIVER OF CHOICE?

My dad's first kite was a Switchblade, and he has ridden Cabrinha ever since. Once I had learned to kite, and it had become apparent that I would need my own kites, the obvious choice was Cabrinha. My first kite was a 5.5m Drifter - I absolutely loved that thing! Living in Cape Town as a grom, a 5.5m was often more than enough for me, and on those light wind days, my dad's 7m was ideal.

My quiver changes slightly depending on where I am. For Cape Town, I ride a 7m Switchblade and an 8m FX. On the lighter days, I am either foiling or go for a freestyle session on the 10m FX, if it's too light for the 10m then I have an older 15m Contra. That thing pulls like a truck, but slacks surprisingly well for such a massive kite.

Board wise, I am using a 135 Ace Hybrid - Cabrinha's newest generation of performance freeride boards. I switch it up with a 142 CBL for freestyle and those missions to the wake park. The CBL is a great choice because it works well for both kiteboarding and park riding, and the best part is that you don't need to change a thing.

I have ridden Cabrinha kites since the start, and I am really grateful that I have the opportunity to represent the brand after it has given me so much pleasure over the years.

WHAT MAJOR DIFFERENCES DO YOU NOTICE BETWEEN OLDER AND NEWER PROFESSIONAL KITEBOARDERS, AND IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

The biggest difference that I can clearly see is the big gap in kite technology. That is one of the most unique things about kiteboarding as a sport,



“ I CAN COUNT MYSELF LUCKY AS A KITEBOARDER BECAUSE WE ARE GOING INTO WINTER, WHICH MEANS THAT THE KITING SEASON IS OVER. ”



new technologies are still being developed yearly, and I believe that kite designs still have a long way to go and are far from being fully developed. Most of the older pros learned to kite when kiting technologies were still in their infancy. These guys started off on two-line kites, which are unforgiving and have a very low-performance standard compared to modern kites. Most of the new, young pros have only been kiting for only the last 7 - 10 years, and in kiteboarding, 10 years is just about half the time the sport has been around!

When kiteboarding came about, and the first few pros were emerging, there was no one to follow, no one to

watch and get inspired by. The first 10 years of kiting were when most tricks were invented. Many tricks have been invented but not yet landed, so there is still tonnes to do in the sport.

If I could change one thing, it would be to make kiteboarding gear truly sustainable; designed with longevity in mind and manufactured from eco-friendly materials.

**HOW HAVE YOU BEEN HANDLING LOCKDOWN? WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED MOST, AND WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT THROUGHOUT THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE?**

Lockdown has been pretty interesting over the last few months, especially in South Africa. Our lockdown started about a month later than most places, and we are still in the early stages of infection. Our president enforced a full lockdown for a month, and slowly but surely, the restrictions on things such as outdoor exercise are being relaxed.

I can count myself lucky as a kiteboarder because we are going into winter, which means that the kiting season is over. I think if the wind was blowing now, while our beaches are still closed, I would be pulling my hair out!





“ ONE THING THAT HAS BECOME APPARENT IS THAT WE CAN'T KEEP TREATING THE PLANET THE WAY WE DO. ”

The lockdown has presented a few lessons to be learned, some harsher than others. One thing that has become apparent is that we can't keep treating the planet the way we do. We seriously need to change something, if not everything. We need to protect and restore nature as if our lives depended on it – because they do!

In South Africa, the lockdown has caused a lot of suffering, and many people need food support. Helping out at a voluntary feeding scheme has made me learn to appreciate everything we have and not to take things for granted.

THANKS CAMDYN, LOOKING FORWARD TO CATCHING UP FOR A SESSION SOON!

Thank you Jen!







# KSURF

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



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ARTHUR GUILLEBERT'S FIRST POST LOCKDOWN SESSION IN LOS ROQUES.  
PHOTO CHARLES TIGER

*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

COHAN VAN DIJK SENDING IT ON MAUI  
PHOTO FISHBOWL DIARIES



*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

MOONA WHYTE MAKING IT LOOK EFFORTLESS, AS USUAL, ON BERAN ISLAND  
PHOTO DAMEA DORSEY

*Lightroom*

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LIGHTROOM

THROWBACK TO ANNELOUS LAMMERTS VICTORIOUS DAY DURING THE 2019 KPL IN ICAPUI, BRAZIL.  
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

WILLEM HOOFT IS AN INSPIRATIONAL RIDER EVERY KITEBOARDER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT,  
HE'S GOT A BOTTOM TURN THAT IS BETTER THAN MOST!  
PHOTO KYLE CABANO



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HASSAN MAHIR'S SOLO SESSION  
PHOTO KAROLINA WINKOWSKA

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WILLOW-RIVER TONKIN SEEKING SHADE AT SKELETON BAY, NAMIBIA  
PHOTO JOSHUA EMANUEL

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FLORIAN DAUBOS STYLING IN OUT IN GUADELOUPE  
PHOTO ROBIN AUSSENAC



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MOONA WHYTE IN HER ELEMENT ON BERAN ISLAND.  
PHOTO DAMEA DORSEY

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WILL BRAZIL BE ON THE CARDS FOR RITA ARNAUS THIS YEAR?  
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



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HELENA BROCHOCKA THROWING IT DOWN  
PHOTO LUKAS STILLER

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PERI ROBERTS TAKING COVER!  
PHOTO YDWER

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JULIEN FILLION GETTING CRITICAL ON A BIG SWELL AT HOOKIPAI  
PHOTO CINDY LIZOTTE

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LIGHTROOM

VICTOR HAYS SCORING ONE OF THOSE MAGICAL SESSIONS IN BRAZIL  
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

*Lightroom*





LIGHTROOM

FLORIAN GRUBER AND ADRIAN GEISLINGER EXPLORING A LAKE IN SALZKAMMERGUT, AUSTRIA ON THE VMG  
PHOTO DOMINIK LEITNER

*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

JULIEN FILLION CRUISING ON THE RIDE ENGINE FOIL SET UP IN HOOD RIVER  
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



*Lightroom*



WORDS EWAN JASPAN PHOTOS ALEX KIBBLE

After a year of big changes at Naish, with some long-term team riders on the out and a fresh new look team on the way in, we decided it was time to get the new crew together and meet up in the big air, to shoot some new products. The team at Naish HQ entrusted us with the task of getting some insane content for the new Dash and Boxer kites, so we took on the challenge and found the perfect location, Cape Town, South Africa.



# THE PHOTOSHOOT CHALLENGE





I jetted over the Indian Ocean to meet up with local South African rippers, Stuart Downey and Ross Player as well as Stig Hoefnagel from the Netherlands. Spending the previous five months on the road hitting freestyle locations and kite parks through the Americas, I was well out of tune with my big air riding, and the first few sessions took some getting used to. Still, I was looking forward to the challenge and spending time with the new crew.

**“ THERE ARE SO MANY VARIABLES AND CHALLENGES YOU NEED TO OVERCOME TO PERFECT THE ART OF ‘GETTING THE SHOT’ . ”**

Upon arrival, we met up with Michael Veltman (our videographer) and Alex Kibble (our photographer) to run through the plan for the shoot. Neither Michael nor Alex had ever shot kiteboarding before, which can be very challenging, but it also provided us with a fresh outlook on what we were doing. The two of them were keen to learn and had shot surfing several times before, so it all came quickly. Mike shoots a lot with the top surfers in the world, swimming around in the water capturing epic slow-mo barrel shots and hacks, so the education of what a kite shot needs were essential.

Kiteboarding is one of, if not THE, hardest board sport to shoot. There are so many variables and challenges you need to overcome to perfect the art of ‘getting the shot’. Even though Cape Town is one of the windiest locations in the world and one of the easiest places to score a session daily, it also proves to be one of the most challenging locations to shoot a good kite shot, especially a ‘product’ shot where the kite is the main focus of the trip.





**“ YOU STAND IN THE DUNES GETTING BLASTED BY SAND AND SALT, WIPING YOUR LENS EVERY SECOND SHOT, AND JUST PRAYING THAT YOU DON’T MISS THAT ONE MEGALOOP! ”**

I will run through some challenges we had to overcome and nail to finish with a successful photoshoot and provide Naish with the content needed to achieve our end goal – SELL KITES.

A few of the challenges the cameraman has to overcome are:

The wind – Cape Town wind is unlike any other place. It’s a dense and cold wind

blows for hours on end straight across the beach. The sand is so fine in Cape Town that it whips up to head high as soon as its kite weather and carries half the oceans salt with it. The gear you need to shoot with has to be heavy, stable and weatherproof, and even then, it’s near impossible to keep your eye steady on the shot. You stand in the dunes getting blasted by sand and salt, wiping your lens every second shot, and just praying that you don’t miss that one megaloop! By the end of the day, you’ve wiped a few months off the life span of your camera gear and usually only come away with a few keepers.

But these keepers are what makes it all worth it!

**THE SPOTS** – Cape Town is rugged, rough and untamed. To find the spot to film the camera guys do a lot of hiking, posting up on cold rocks, hills, sand dunes or cold water. At times, they also had to sit near dangerous townships with local gangs and their Pitbull’s eyeing off some expensive camera gear.

**SHARKS** – This is one thing I don’t envy. Swimming around in South Africa’s cold sharky waters looking like a seal. No thanks!

**THE RIDERS** – Shooting kiteboarders in Cape Town is slightly different from your classic spots, like as Maui, Hatteras, Hood River etc.



Here, we fly. It's not uncommon for the video man to have to track a rider 200m from where he took off, pan up 20+ meters, capture the kite through the kiteloop, keep the horizon in the shot and locked straight and not miss a trick. This takes 100% focus from start to finish through the session and is a highly undervalued skill to be able to pull off.

**“ ONE BAD GUST OR LULL IN THE WIND AND YOU CAN ALSO FALL FROM THE SKY HIGHER THAN YOU EVER HAVE BEFORE.”**

A FEW THINGS THE RIDERS HAVE TO OVERCOME/PERFECT TO GET THE SHOT.

**THE WIND** – For us, as riders, the wind is a blessing in Cape Town, but it's a wind you have to respect, as you can go from hero-zero real fast. Cape Town will send you higher into the sky than you have ever been before, but one wrong move with the kite or one bad gust or lull in the wind and you can also fall from the sky higher than you ever have before. When we were shooting, we had a lot of windy days, but many of the places we visited in search of the perfect spot were gusty, unpredictable and far away from medical resources. You always want to send it for the camera, but we had to be smart about it and choose our moments wisely. Due to this, we may have scored fewer crazy shots than a 'balls to the wall' mentality may have delivered us, but we all came away unscathed and ready for the rest of the season.

**THE FRAMING** – You may think of this one as something only the videographer has to work on, but it's almost a more important task for the rider to complete. You, as the rider, are the mobile part of the solution, and it's your job during a photoshoot to line yourself up so that you, the kite,







the background and foreground are all in a reasonable place for the camera person to work their magic. For example, shooting at Kite Beach in Table view, Cape Town, there are some classic things you want to make happen for your shot to work.

**“ IT’S ESSENTIAL TO BE ABLE TO SELL THE KITE, TO SHOW WHAT THE CUSTOMER CAN IMAGINE THEMSELVES DOING ON THE PRODUCT.”**

Firstly, you need to be upwind of the videographer, at a distance pre-determined between the camera team and the riders. Secondly, you need to make sure you’re on an angle so that the camera can draw a straight line between the amazing backdrop of Table Mountain, or Lions Head, you (the rider) and the kite (the product). It is impossible for the videographer, which is posted into the ground with a tripod, to change this line, so it’s your duty as a rider to know this setup and stick to it, time and time again.

**RIDING FOR THE PRODUCT** – This is a big one for the brands. If you want to nail a product shoot, and have the team at your brands HQ’s stoked, you need to be able to adapt your riding to the kite. For this particular shoot we are trying to shoot extreme riding on the Dash, so being able to go full send was essential. We also shot the new Boxer, which is a foiling/freeride kite, at the total other end of the spectrum to the Dash. We then needed to show our foiling, cruising, having a good time and some chilled twin tip riding, which is what the kite is made for. It’s essential to be able to sell the kite, to show what the customer can imagine themselves doing on the product.





**“ WE BONDED AS A GROUP, EXPLORED SOME OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE KITE LOCATIONS WE HAD SEEN, HAD LAUGHS, GREAT TIMES AND MOST IMPORTANTLY GOT PLENTY OF GOOD CONTENT. ”**

There’s no point showing up to a shoot in your boots ready to throw the latest double handlepass if you’re trying to sell a specific product to the weekend warrior who just wants to cruise with ease, save those ones for the hardcore products and your own edits. **STAY MOTIVATED/POSITIVE THROUGH THE WHOLE SHOOT** – This one sounds easy,

you’re on a kite shoot, riding the latest product in some of the best locations in the world, how could you not be! Well, for most of the time this is true, we are doing what we love and amped up, but every shoot comes with its ups and downs. We definitely encountered some long drives, waiting for wind in the baking heat of a slum’s stormwater run-off, sitting in the pouring rain for hours on end after a long day of no kiteboarding trying to score one freestyle shot and getting pelted by rocks and sand in the windiest constant conditions I’ve ever seen for hours and hours on end.

Through all these moments, you can encounter frustration and a loss of motivation as you struggle to get the content you so want to deliver back to the brand and share with the world. Still, you have to remember the only way this is going to happen through persistence and a constant attitude that you will give it your all and stay positive.

By the end of the shoot, we were so thankful to have been able to experience it. We bonded as a group, explored some of the most incredible kite locations we had seen, had laughs, great times and most importantly got plenty of good content.





**“ I ACTUALLY DON'T THINK HE CRASHED FOR THE ENTIRE SHOOT, SHOWING CONTROL UNLIKE ANY OTHER AND COMING OUT AS MVP MOST DAYS ”**

The crew put in a massive effort, Mike and Alex, our cameramen, are now highly proficient in the kite world, as you can see by the photos and the video content online, we scored there. Stuart, Stig and Ross all killed it on the water. Stuart was able to perform in every type of condition and is always ready to make the most of whatever we are thrown. I actually don't think he crashed for the entire shoot, showing control unlike any other and coming out as MVP most days, not only with the kiteboarding, but taking us to all the best spots, knowing the conditions like the back of his hand, and absolutely wrecking his beloved Land Cruiser for the cause. Stig, on his first Naish product shoot, was eager to learn and improved from day 1. I was blown away by his motivation to progress and learn, and coming back later in the season for KOTA, I could instantly see it was paying off. He can ride for plenty of different styles too and will be a valuable team rider for years to come. Ross was also showing his big air prowess and local knowledge throughout the shoot and powering down enough milkshakes for the entire team while doing so! We came away with a sense of achievement and a video that really shows what a team trip should be like.

Until next time,

Ewan



WORDS JEN TYLER

# INSIGHT

## THE NORTH GIRLS

In our continuing series looking at some of the women behind working within the industry we chat to Holley Butler and Grace Seeley who look after marketing for North Kiteboarding. Based in New Zealand it's been an interesting baptism of fire while the brand was launched in a whirlwind last year!





"WE LIVED A PRETTY CRUISEY LIFE FOR A YEAR, KITEBOARDING AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY"



**Holley and Grace, thanks for joining us, it's great to meet you! Holley, can you tell us what it was like growing up in Auckland?**

Thank you for having us! I was fortunate to grow up in Auckland on a lifestyle block with plenty of animals, and a massive backyard to keep me entertained. We're only a 30-minute drive, either way. My family are very outdoorsy, so growing up, we would always go camping around the country. We are spoilt for choice with all the beautiful walks, bike tracks and surf beaches New Zealand has to offer!

**Grace, we've got to ask! How does someone who studied Psychology in Edinburgh, UK, end up working as a Content Community Manager in the kiteboarding industry in New Zealand? What made you want to leave the UK?**

As part of my degree at Edinburgh University, I chose to spend a year abroad studying in Auckland. My good friend and first kiteboarding inspiration, Polly Crathorne, had chosen Auckland for the incredible kite spots it has to offer. She introduced me to the University Kite Club, and I learnt to kite cheaply,

with a lot of help from the friends I made. We lived a pretty cruisey life for a year, kiteboarding at every opportunity, meaning that when I left New Zealand, I knew I'd want to come back.

After graduating, I moved to London and got a job in an Advertising agency. Despite all my friends living there, London wasn't for me. It would take me hours to get out of the city to go kiteboarding at the weekend, and I missed living close to the ocean. Getting the tube followed by three train changes with a board, harness and kite, was such a mission!



“ LAUNCHING A WATERSPORTS BRAND, WITH PLENTY OF TRAVEL, BASED IN MY HOME COUNTRY, SEEMED LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE! ”



SOUTH AFRICA DELIVERING THE GOODS!  
PHOTO YDWER

It had always been in the back of my mind to revisit New Zealand. I kept in touch with the guys from the Kite Club in Auckland, one of whom is the Graphic Designer for North Kiteboarding, Tom Crosse. When the job came up, Tom put me in touch with Holley, and it sounded too good an opportunity to turn down!

**Holley, you left Auckland and ended up travelling around for a few years. What were you doing before you got the job at North Kiteboarding? What made you want to return to Auckland?**

I previously worked in Advertising agencies in New Zealand and then in London, which is where my Marketing background comes in. However, before making the move to North Kiteboarding, I volunteered at a surf school in Lagos, Portugal. It was a fantastic experience where I spent most of my days surfing, exploring the Algarve and showing our guests around town.

While travelling, I used London as my base and jetted off around Europe at every chance I got. However, I really did miss the freedom New Zealand offered, and the ease of being able to get out on the water whenever I could. It was actually the job at North Kiteboarding that lured me back to Auckland! I was coming to the end of the season in Portugal and started looking at jobs in New Zealand, Australia and Holland to see if there was anything of interest. The Marketing Manager role at North Kiteboarding was the first and only interview I had.

Launching a watersports brand, with plenty of travel, based in my home country, seemed like a dream come true! Mike Raper (North's Brand Director) and I really hit it off. With our joint appreciation and love for the ocean, combined with my advertising background, I was offered the job after our first Skype interview and booked a ticket home.



**Grace, what it's like living in New Zealand?  
It looks incredible!**

With the current global situation, now more than ever, I feel lucky to be living here. It's such a fantastic country and the outdoor activities on your doorstep are endless. Every weekend, we leave the city to explore a different surf or kite spot. I also love the kiwi laid back lifestyle, where everyone respects the work-life balance. This is a stark contrast to the 'rat race' in London. Having the most incredible beaches on your doorstep, I don't feel the need to go on holiday. That pretty much sums up living in New Zealand for me - no need to escape.

**Holley, can you describe a typical day at the North Kiteboarding headquarters?**

We laugh a lot, especially during the Marketing Department team meetings at our indoor skate ramp, which also doubles as a boardroom. This is followed by a fair few emails and trips to the local grocer for salads, cakes and coffee.

Being in the growth phase of a business is incredibly exciting. We're constantly brainstorming new ideas and campaigns, it's a very collaborative office. We also have a strong female presence here, which is pretty unusual for a kiteboarding company. From our copy-whizz Victoria to graphic designer Suzie, we are so lucky to work with such amazing women (and men!) which I think helps challenge some industry norms and ultimately widens the funnel of potential people getting into the sport. We're also incredibly lucky to be situated a 15-minute drive from one of the best surfing and kiteboarding beaches, Muriwai, so if the swell is good or wind is strong, you'll most likely find the office half empty!

*" BEING IN THE GROWTH PHASE OF A BUSINESS IS INCREDIBLY EXCITING. WE'RE CONSTANTLY BRAINSTORMING NEW IDEAS AND CAMPAIGNS. IT'S A VERY COLLABORATIVE OFFICE. "*







**Grace, what are some of the best kiteboarding spots around New Zealand? Any travel recommendations?**

Auckland is great for kiteboarding, due to there being a beach within 30-minutes' drive suitable for every wind direction. For big air, Muriwai Beach is epic and just so happens to be 10 minutes down the road from the North Kiteboarding office. There is also Glendowie Spit, which is my favourite flatwater spot in the city. You'll often see North team rider, Marc Jacobs, throwing massive loops over the spit.

A few hours north of Auckland is a little gem spot called Mangawhai. I've been lucky enough to kite the

lagoons in Brazil, and I reckon this spot is easily on par. It's a huge lagoon with butter-flat water, backed by a massive white sand dune. Down in Queenstown, Glenorchy has to be one of the most scenic kite spots I've ever been to. We took the whole North Kiteboarding team there to shoot some of our 2020 Brand Movie, it's a pretty spectacular place.

**Holley, what was it like launching North Kiteboarding and what were the highs and the lows?**

Launching a brand is both incredibly exciting and daunting. It was, without a doubt, one of the proudest moments of my life. I vividly remember Grace and I

sitting in our office at 7pm, fuelled with coffee and Indian takeaway (our staple diet over the launch period!) about to press go on everything the collective team had worked on leading up to the 8th August. It was such a surreal feeling seeing everything we'd produced over a rollercoaster nine months finally on the kiteboarding world stage.

In the period leading up to the launch, Grace and I worked until 4am for about three weeks straight, to get the website live, and align all deliverables from print to social, retail and everything else you can think of across the globe. Being based in New Zealand has many advantages; however, the time difference can be tricky at times!



“WORKING WITH SUCH AN INCREDIBLE AND TALENTED GROUP OF PEOPLE HAS HONESTLY MADE SUCH A DIFFERENCE.”



I'm super proud of the brand we built, in such a short space of time. Bringing a huge range of products to the market was an incredibly high-pressure situation, and with so many deliverables, your head would feel like it was going to explode with the sheer number of things to remember! However, working with such an incredible and talented group of people has honestly made such a difference. From the product engineers and designers, sales team and team riders. Every single person is so passionate and aligned with our vision of really disrupting the market and creating a point of difference in kiteboarding.

**Grace, what are some of the pros and cons of being a Content Community Manager?**

I do a bit of everything, including the social media, website, working with the media and on our sustainability plans. I'm also in close contact with our inspiring team of North athletes; a lot is going on!

Before landing the job at North Kiteboarding, I was working for a large company, with well-oiled structures and processes. My roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, but I quickly got bored with this. I love that at North Kiteboarding, being a start-up, we are all new to the challenges we face, making every day different. I'm proud to be part of the small, close-knit team who launched the North Kiteboarding brand in August 2018.

We are all personally invested in the brand, and it's great having the designers and marketing team working together under one roof. While it can connect people worldwide, and this is key for our business, social media never sleeps. For me, this can sometimes be mentally consuming, as I often find myself checking the North Kiteboarding account before I go to sleep and as soon as I wake up.





The ultimate perk has to be having a manager who will shift meetings in line with the swell, and a boss who we can kite with. Holley and I go surfing before work, and the best kite sessions are where all the North Kiteboarding team goes out, and the beach is full of North kites. All of us in the office need to get on the water and clear our heads. We are lucky enough to work somewhere that appreciates this and allows us to get the work done after a session or two.

**Holley, you guys have quite a team of pro riders, what's it like working with them? What sort of relationship do you need to establish with them? How do you keep them motivated to create new content?**

We were very selective with the team we brought on board, and I am stoked with every single one of them! They were all chosen for embodying our core values and are a walking representation of the North Kiteboarding brand. A big part of our job is working closely with them to align our marketing efforts. Grace especially, and our new Team Manager Alex Vilege, are fantastic in ensuring that our efforts are well communicated and coordinated.

Even though New Zealand is quite remote, I've been lucky enough to spend a decent amount of time with all of them through our sales meetings, industry events and product shoots. I love collaborating with the team and always leave our catchup's, feeling very motivated and excited for future projects!

" THE BEST KITE SESSIONS ARE WHERE ALL THE NORTH KITEBOARDING TEAM GOES OUT "







**Grace, what's it like being a female in a male-dominated industry? What are some of the challenges you face?**

The industry is definitely male-dominated, and you may often be the only female at the beach, but what I love about the kiteboarding community is that we are all genuinely there to look after one another. At the North Kiteboarding office, about half of the team are female, so we often have healthy discussions about our brand direction, and this comes from a gender-neutral perspective. I feel lucky to be working in such a supportive environment, which may not be the norm across the industry. One particular discussion we had was about how many kite brands sell female-specific boards. In my opinion, this is an

industry that is outdated, and even though I appreciate lightweight riders require gear to suit their needs, I think female and male riders should be treated equally. Seeing the first female rider, Angely Bouillot, compete in King of the Air this year proved this. I'm definitely noticing more females out on the water with every session, so I'm excited to see where the sport will be in a few years!

**Holley, tell us about Cape Town! What was it like going for King of the Air?**

I had never been to Cape Town before working at North Kiteboarding, and I loved it! I went on my own with North Kiteboarding in 2019 and was lucky enough to take Grace and Jonty Norton (our Content Creator who took most of these photographs!) with

me this year. It made a huge difference having all 3 of us on the ground to collaborate and work through new content ideas and activations, daily. We're a tight-knit team, so it was awesome to spend some quality time together in such a beautiful location.

King of the Air will always be such a special place for the brand, both through being the place where we premiered our prototype kite in 2019 (now the Orbit) and this year's clean sweep by Jesse, Nick and Marc. There is truly nothing like it! From an industry perspective, it's fantastic to have everyone in one place and a great opportunity to catch up with our international team and Mystic counterparts. Not only that, but the vibe on the beach at KOTA is like none other, I love watching our athletes send it!



**Grace, what piece of advice would you give to someone that's looking for a career change, but can't seem to get out of their comfort zone?**

With the current global situation due to COVID-19, I think we can all appreciate how quickly your way of life can be disrupted. Life is too short to not be doing something you enjoy. I'm incredibly grateful to be in my current position and have a family who has fully supported my move to New Zealand, but it definitely takes a bit of courage to go against the norm. My main piece of advice would be to figure out what you value most and be open to everyone and to every opportunity. Without sounding too cheesy, it pays to be kind. I ended up working at North Kiteboarding, thanks to the incredible people I met along the way.

**Holley, what are your interests besides watersports?**

I love partaking in anything that gets me outdoors and my body moving. Whether hiking around our beautiful country, running, or joining a Pilates class, I try my best to start my day with some kind of activity as that's when I find I'm most productive. As well as that I'm really into cooking and love experimenting as much as possible. The New Zealand lockdown was excellent for this!

**Grace, you and Holley have the day off – how do you spend the day?**

The perfect day off for Holley and I would start with a dawnie-up on the east coast, surfing some dreamy right-handers, getting off the water around midday to catch up on a few emails in the afternoon - North Kiteboarding never sleeps!

"FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU VALUE MOST  
AND BE OPEN TO EVERYONE AND TO  
EVERY OPPORTUNITY."





" I THINK WE'VE HAD A PHENOMENAL LAUNCH YEAR AND ARE LOOKING TO BUILD ON THIS EVEN FURTHER. "



THE NORTH CREW SCORING GOLD PHOTO YDWER

Followed by pizza and beer in the evening; a bit basic but we wouldn't have it any other way!

**Holley, is there anything interesting going on in the North Kiteboarding pipeline you'd like to share with us?**

We're incredibly busy working on our MY21 collection launch, and there are some really exciting products here and stories to be told. I think we've had a phenomenal launch year and are looking to build on this even further. Despite the challenges we're facing as an industry, as well as on a personal level with COVID-19, I'm super excited to share what we've been working on very soon!

**Thank you, it's been great catching up!**

Thanks Jen!





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PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



WORDS SUKIE HUNTELY-ROBERTSON  
PHOTOS CORE KITEBOARDING

## TECH FOCUS

# CORE SENSOR 3 BAR

No stranger to innovation, German powerhouse CORE proudly unveiled the new Sensor 3 Bar series at their annual dealer meeting in early March this year. Almost 3 years in the making, the range incorporates 4 options to cover the different kites and styles on offer.





**“ IT CAN GIVE YOU THE FEEDBACK YOU NEED FOR AN INCREDIBLE SESSION, AND IT ALSO HELPS YOU TO CONTROL THE KITE EASIER. ”**

We caught up with COREs newly appointed CEO Philip Schinnagel to chat through the highly anticipated Sensor 3 Bar, and also managed to grab hold of new designer Rick Jensen to chat through his thoughts and inspirations behind the project.

Phillip Schinnagel: “The Bar is the interface between you and the kite so it's really really important. From my perspective, it's perhaps more important than the kite itself. It can give you the feedback you need for an incredible session, and it also helps you to control the kite easier. Once again we have tried to avoid those bulky bar ends and all that heavy stuff. The goal was to have the lightest and most direct bar on the market, we launched our campaign around these three core words: feel, control, connect. These are the pillars we focused on throughout the development, and with the finished product this is what we have achieved.”

**Rick has come on as your designer, and was it his idea to to revamp the bar. Is it something which has been in the pipeline for ages?**

PS “We have had it on the list for a few years actually, then Rick joined us two and a half years ago. He created and designed the new Sensor 3 bar himself. Rick is an International Wake Style champion and a good wakeboarder too, he always had in mind to create something more like a wake handle, a bar that won't hurt your hands, something a little different to what is already out there. The result is we have those soft bar ends and this rubber feeling grip, but the bar is still really light weight and not at all bulky.







**" THE WHOLE DEVELOPMENT FROM THE FIRST SKETCH TO THE FINAL PRODUCT TOOK OVER 2 YEARS "**

This was the main idea with it. Then Rick he started to think, we have a very clean device in your hands while riding but what about when you pack down? So he made the Stealth Winders, and people ask, how should I wrap my lines around it?! It should be clear! It is, but it's hidden, just open them up and you have the normal winder."

Rick Jensen: "Well, the whole development

from the first sketch to the final product took over 2 years, but the raw version of a slick designed bar grew slowly from the experience of kite and wakeboarding for around 20 years in my head before working for CORE.

**It seems like a long process to design and develop a bar, are there many others involved?**

PS "We wanted to have a new one last year actually but we said no; let's take one more year to develop it. So this is just a classic case for being ready in time. For us it is

really important to only release a product when we feel it is ready. I actually took a look at our old bar yesterday and said, oh man, that looks like something from the 1990s! How could we have

RJ "For realising those ideas I am lucky to work with such a brilliant team. Frank Ilfrich our kite designer has been working for CORE since pretty much the beginning and has a very precise eye on things. Jan Kieksee who mainly works on the graphic design is a genius, giving both impulses and puzzling ideas together. Then brainstorming and testing with Sebastien Witzleben (AKA Buzzy!) I have someone on my side with even more motivation than me,





**“ IT WAS CLEAR WHAT RISKS COULD BE AVOIDED AND WHAT OPPORTUNITIES THERE WERE TO BRING THE PRODUCT TO THE NEXT LEVEL. ”**

spending every possible minute on the water and thinking outside the box. I would say our R&D bubble is filled with professionals and passion for taking on new spheres. Bringing all of this into existence is of course another issue, however with ability to use modern CAD software and 3D printers for manufacturing prototypes it all came together. But the seeds for this whole project were simply a lot of sketches.”

**You have developed a few unique ideas with this bar such as the Stealth Winders, was it a case of starting from the ground up or using what you had already with the Sensor 2?**

PS “It's often overlooked I think the grip, so now we have the Grip Lock. It feels softer and the new profile adds more grip and more comfort. But it's basically the same diameter we used to use: we kept all these good working CORE standards that we had in our bars. For example there is a titanium insert in the center of the bar to make it more stiff, plus the carbon fiber reinforced bar blank itself for the Pro Bar.”

RJ: “The DNA of the CORE Sensor control system should be kept. Analyzing the strengths and weaknesses it was clear what risks could be avoided and what opportunities there were to bring the product to the next level. For example we still use the Titanium core and Tactanium lines. But those hard sharp end caps were something which seriously had to go, and of course there are more options for the QR release which we explored.





**" WE DESIGNED THE ROTOR QUICK RELEASE. THIS TWIST RELEASE WAS BASED ON THE IDEA OF JET PILOTS AND PARAGLIDERS. "**

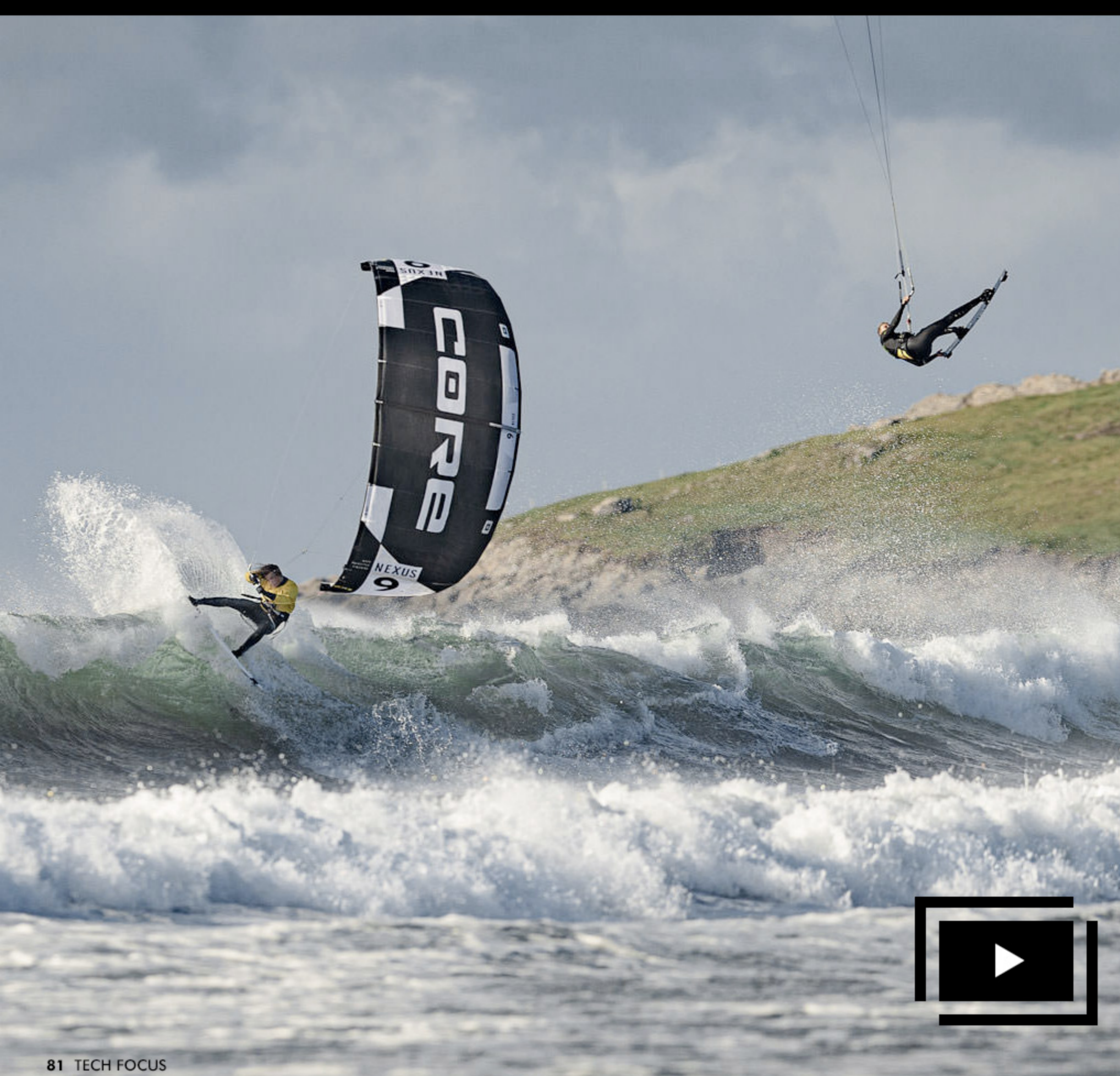
**Traditionally of course CORE have always used, and are sometimes known for, the Rotor QR twist release mechanism. Why now the change to a push away option?**

PS "The original revolution started in 2011 for us, beforehand we had a pushout system. So It's nothing new to us. Back then we designed the Rotor Quick Release. This twist release was based on the idea of jet pilots and paragliders. They all have something to twist because in an emergency situation you don't want to have extra pressure on this thing that you need to move away from you. The only solution to bring down this extra force is the twist.

And for us kitesurfers, we have this load from the kite plus the extra load from sand or water pushing it down so it is even harder to push away. That was the main idea that worked very well. Back then we were not able to engineer something like we have today with the protected case of the QR offering such low forces to open. Even with the maximum load of 240 kg on its surface the new release is so simple to open. And over the years we have been able to develop it to what it is now. As you may know, we have been working with the other GKA members to make the sport safer. We now have the safety having visible red parts and very low forces to release your kite no matter if it's being pushed out or twisted. The status of this is now industry standard and that is so cool. So we open ourselves up to it and said how can we adapt ourselves to make the sport even safer for our CORE customers, and also kitesurfers all around the world."







**“ YOU HAVE THIS RED STRIPE NOW TO AVOID GRABBING IT THE WRONG WAY WHICH IS SIMPLE BUT CAN REALLY BE EFFECTIVE IN THE SPLIT SECOND MOMENT. ”**

**Simplicity is something you are clearly focussing on, is there a reason behind that?**

PS “Sadly for most of our customers they actually go kiting for two weeks or four weeks a year and that is it. So you have to make sure the equipment they have is working and you don’t have to do another course before you go back on the water! We added those basic safety features like the visual safety on the back side, you have this red stripe now to avoid grabbing it the wrong way which is simple but can really be effective in the split second moment.”

**Once you have finished the design and are happy and have released it, do you have a break or is it straight into the new design?**

PS “Its started already! Maybe some more features that we wanted to add that were not ready. And so it's always an ongoing process. You cannot relax! If you ask the designers they say it is not ready yet! But at a certain stage we say now it is time for something new.”

**Can you let us in on what you are now working on with a new bar?**

RJ: “For this you would need to be able to see inside my head!”



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 KITESURFING HOME

Just when lockdowns, social distancing and 'no kitesurfing' became daily topics of discussion, Antoine Auriol sprinkled a little humour by posting this video, it's only 30 seconds long, but we're not surprised to see it make it was to #1 on our Movie Night list!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

## #2 #KITERSINISOLATION PEAHI (JAWS)

We replayed some timeless videos for #KittersInIsolation, and we're not surprised to see this one at #2! Back in 2015, Maui's finest watermen took on Jaws and all while, Dan manoeuvres his Hughes 500D like a DJI Phantom to get the shot nobody else dared to get!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

## #3 PARENTING 101

Wondering how to get your kids to fall in love with kiteboarding? Well, Tom Hebert seems to have mastered it! Landing at #3 on our Movie Night list this issue is Parenting 101 by Tom Hebert (Although a helmet would be highly recommended!) Get the kids involved!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

## #4 #KITERSINISOLATION - HIDDEN LINES - EP 2 - SAN BLAS ISLANDS

We're taking you back to 2012, An all-time favourite for many, Hidden Lines - Episode 2 lands at #4. Watch Yuri Zoon, Kevin Langeree and Nick Jacobsen travel the San Blas Islands. Get this one on the big screen!



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SOMEONE SET THE SKY ON FIRE IN MAURITIUS  
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

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