

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 21

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 88 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine!

With 18 months of pandemic fatigue settling in, we're cautiously inching closer to some semblance of normalcy, or at least getting used to our current situation! While the responsible choice would be to spend some of our hard-earned bucks on therapy, a dream kite trip might

just save our sanity! This issue, we explore Turks & Caicos, South Africa, and Zanzibar. Home or away, it's a good time to Invest in Your Progression! The team over at F-ONE talks the new Bandit XV, Jo Ciastula checks in after GKA Tarifa, and Su Kay shares her industry insights. Still hungry? Tuck into tests, technique, and much more; Issue 88 is hot and ready!

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.



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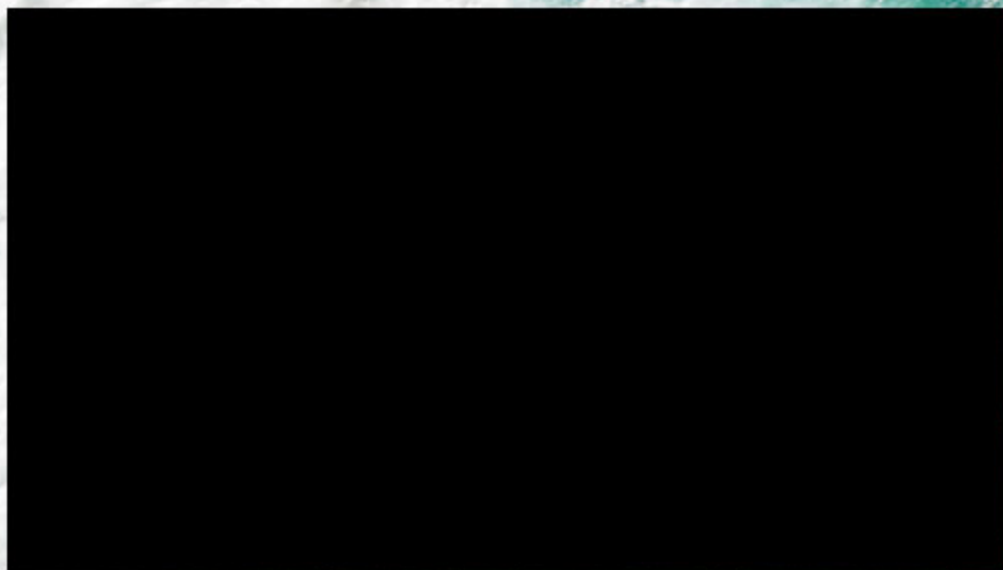
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15
COMPETITION



165
TRIED & TESTED



19
EDITORIAL



177
ON THE FLY



25
INVEST IN YOUR
PROGRESSION



201
THE LUCKY STOP



51
SOUTH AFRICA:
THE ROAD TRIP



215
INSIGHT: SU KAY



75
TECHNIQUE



231
LIGHTROOM



107
HAKUNA MATATA
ZANZIBAR



249
MOVIE NIGHT



123
TECH FOCUS



147
THE INTERVIEW:
JO CIASTULA



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sport & none of the activities depicted
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person by a qualified instructor.

RIDER LOUKA PITOT
PHOTO CHRISTOPHER POOLE





WIN

...WOO 3.0 PACKAGE

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For this issue, we've got Woo on board to offer one of you, our lucky subscribers, a prize that will take your kiting to the next level! The WOO 3.0 Package will connect you with the whole WOO community using their new app and added smartwatch compatibility. It's up for grabs, don't miss out!

The WOO sensor is the simplest way to record your session and play while you kite, no matter the conditions. The WOO captures your highest boost in Big Air mode, scores your best tricks in Freestyle mode, or records your entire session in Freeride mode. Join the community on

the WOO Kite App, all new in 2021 to better support all riders for all sessions. The latest update adds free functionality for everyone, like the ability to record a Freeride GPS session with simply an Apple Watch, iOS or Android phone, so you can compete with your friends, even those without a WOO sensor! Nothing is more motivating than real-time feedback while riding. Grab a smartwatch, pair it with your WOO, and you now have a dynamic display for your kite stats, including the height of every jump right after you land. Game on!

HOW CAN I WIN THE PRIZE?

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ISSUE 88 Tell Us How You Really Feel

Last issue, Rou Chater signed off after 173 editorials written across four publications. With the counter reset, this issue is my lucky number 1!

The 'passing of the torch' has been relatively smooth, apart from the fact that the torch has been a bit hard to hang onto as it was literally on fire after Issue 87's sizzling cover featuring Hannah Whiteley.

As some have assumed, no, we did not invite Hannah for a cover shoot at IKSURFMAG HQ, strip her down to a bikini, and strap her to the ceiling. However, yes, we did receive a creative selection of eye-popping shots from an athlete and woman that we admire and felt that it deserved to be front and centre.

While not entirely unexpected, the response was passionate. Back in the day, that response might have taken the form of the postman carrying a heaving bag of Letters to the Editor. Today, it all plays out on social media. And play out, it did.

For the most part, our community of kitesurfers is a supportive bunch, but some of the comments we saw raised our eyebrows. Being kind isn't a requirement; after all, we are all individuals and have the freedom to communicate however we so choose. However, unlike in football or Formula 1, in this sport, it's almost sure that you'll run into several of the athletes that grace our pages on a beach somewhere. They read your comments on social media. One quickly-written comment in the heat of the moment can be harmful.

We asked Hannah what she thought about the response to the lockdown shoot.

"I appreciate it's not going to be everyone's cup of tea, but that's okay. People are entitled to their own opinion. I got the shot and then showed how it was done. I was completely honest."

RIDER HANNAH WHITELEY
PHOTO JIL VAN DIJK



The haters think it's all fake and dead easy... It was actually very difficult! For reference, my brother is a bodybuilder, and he tested it out whilst we were setting up the lighting. He struggled to hold the grabs after only a few seconds. It was the biggest abs killer and much more strenuous than holding those grabs while actually kitesurfing.

I received mostly positive feedback on the lockdown shoot. The majority found it interesting and enjoyed the behind the scenes story of shooting in a makeshift studio in lockdown. There were some negative comments too. I think it's normal for the negative comments to stand out over the positive ones. I read them, and it did make me feel a little down. A lot of time and effort went into the shoot. Like anything, though, you just brush it off and continue to do what you believe in. I will certainly continue to challenge my creativity and bring different content out. A few negative comments won't hold me back. If we all had the same opinions, the world would be a boring place. Sometimes it's good to be a bit controversial.

I am really pleased with how the lockdown shoot turned out. It will continue to be a special memory, with my family being a big part of the jigsaw puzzle to make the shoot happen. Thank you, IKSURFMAG, for making me your cover girl for Issue 87, encouraging creativity and something different."

-Hannah Whiteley

While we had a balanced mix of positive and negative feedback, we noticed a worrying trend that applies not just in kitesurfing but all online communication. Those with negative comments are often quick to the keyboard, firing off a clip of harsh words and sharp criticisms. On the other hand, positive words are



RIDER HANNAH WHITELEY
PHOTO JIL VAN DIJK

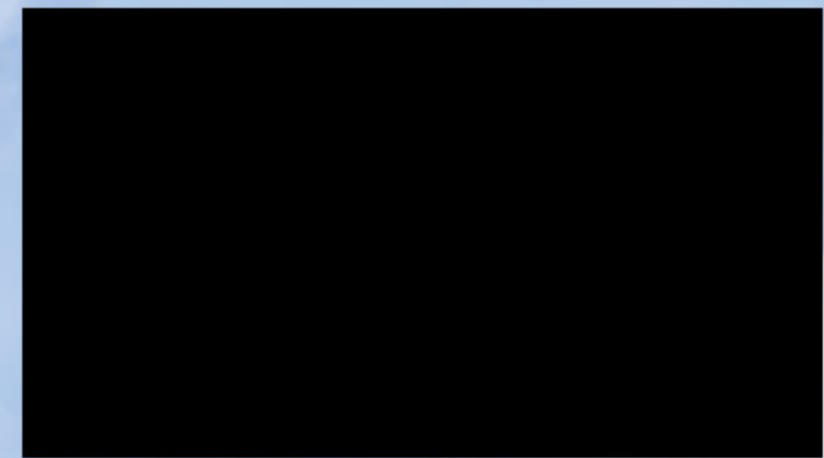
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almost exclusively written in response to negative comments. Overall, it sparked an interesting series of conversations and debates, and our popcorn supplies have been sufficiently depleted.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, and we want to hear it. You're free to love, hate, or not give a damn about the content you see. We only ask that when you love it, you tell us. When you're bored, tell us! We want to know what content you want to see, not just the stuff that sets you off.

Here at IKSURFMAG, I'm proud to be working with a small but incredibly diverse team spread out across the world. More than 60% of our team are women, and we proudly support women in kiteboarding. We always aim to produce and share great content, and I'm committed to improving issue after issue. So tell us how you really feel, and let's do it together!

Crystal Veness
Editor



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All air, no care.

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It Calls.



Progression is hard, and it gets harder as we go along. Putting time and, sometimes, money into improving our skill set is something that can quickly become an afterthought. Before we know it, we're in a rut, and the desire to get on the water begins to fade. If you've been kiting for yonks, you probably know the feeling. Well, we're here to help light the match on this powderkeg of progression!

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

INVEST IN YOUR PROGRESSION

“ THAT LITTLE BIT OF SUCCESS RELEASED A SHOT OF DOPAMINE STRAIGHT INTO YOUR BRAIN, AND THAT’S A FEELING THAT IS HARD TO STOP CHASING ”

Do you remember the feeling of landing your first backroll? Or a moment as simple as sticking that first transition without getting your bum wet? Even if you can't picture that exact moment today, it's etched somewhere in your neural pathways. That little bit of success released a shot of dopamine straight into your brain, and that's a feeling that is hard to stop chasing.

I'm not saying that I support behavioural addictions, but I'm willing to admit that some vices are better than others. Glaring at your smartphone, waiting for the next ping, like, or message is not so healthy. Refreshing the wind forecast to see when it's time to head to the beach? Fine by me!

Innovator and industrialist Henry Ford said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young." We've seen people kiting as young as 3-years-old, and well into their 80s. How old these 'grandmasters' feel on the inside is another story! No matter the physical age, it is certainly true that kitesurfing keeps us young.

We should never stop learning, in kiting, and in life. However, for most kitesurfers, the last coaching experience was in those fledgling days as we were taking our first flights. WOO's Leo Koenig weighs in, "Progression is often just seen as something that happens on its own, and it's just part of doing something. I've learned over the years that it is quite the opposite. You've got to be willing to leave your comfort zone over and over again, up until being out of the comfort zone almost becomes your comfort zone."



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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

EDITOR: VICTOR HAYS & COLIN OGDON



“ YOU CAN USE THE APP TO STUDY AT HOME OR EVEN TUCK YOUR PHONE INTO A WATERPROOF POUCH AND TROUBLESHOOT YOUR SESSION ON THE WATER. ”

Let's push past that comfort zone! With the help of the experts, we're taking a closer look at our three favourite progression tools:

ONLINE TUTORIALS

The (ahem) old fogies among us may have an old set of Progression DVDs or a copy of Strictly Hooked gathering dust in the back of the closet; luckily, modern times have

brought modern solutions. Countless talented and hard-working kitesurfers have created online and 100% free kitesurfing tutorials. Here at IKSURFMAG, our very own Christian and Karine have written 230 detailed techniques guides for our magazine and website - 233, if you include the ones in this issue!

The team over at Duotone stepped it up a notch further with the Duotone Academy App, offering access to what we believe is the best free progression tool on the market. You can use the app to study at home or even tuck your phone into a waterproof pouch and troubleshoot your session on the

water. Where else can you access free coaching from Aaron Hadlow, Lasse Walker, Jeremie Tronet, Colleen Carroll, Sebastian Ribeiro, and other pros? As app developer Patrick Dudek says, "It's like Lewis Hamilton being your driving instructor."

How does it work? Super Coach Jeremie Tronet explains, "Riders can download the tutorial video for offline use when on the spot, and the text and picture version of the trick gives you the key elements as a summary, without having to watch the video again. The most impressive aspect of the app is that users can upload videos of their attempts to the app chat and have Duotone International Team Riders comment and give them tips on what to do to land their tricks.



“ I LIKE TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN TO KEEP THAT GOING AND GET THE NEXT GENERATION MOTIVATED TO LEARN NEW SKILLS. ”

Additionally, other users in the community can vote on your video if they think your trick has been successfully completed, giving you points. The app will even suggest the next trick for you to try, based on the tricks you can already land.”

Duotone Academy coach Aaron Hadlow says, “Investment of time and focus on the water is what led me to where I am today. For young up and coming kids especially, but also motivated adults, it is really key to understand kiting to the fullest by trying different tricks, different disciplines, and different conditions. This is the reason I was motivated to help with the Duotone Academy, especially for the wake style section. I wanted to take on the job of breaking down all the tricks into the right groups and writing the text myself to really have a comprehensive learning tool that people can rely on. I feel the handle pass side of the sport is dying away a little at the moment, so I like to help in any way I can to keep that going and get the next generation motivated to learn new skills.”

With over 90,000 active users learning hooked in moves, strapless freestyle, wave riding, unhooked freestyle, and soon winging, it is clear that the Duotone Academy has hit the nerve of the kitesurfing community. Perhaps being built by kites for kites - entirely in-house at Duotone by Patrick Dudek and his brilliant team - had something to do with it!



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“ I FLOURISH WHEN THERE’S A PRO COACH IN MY EAR TELLING ME WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT! ”

There’s no question that this is the best digital tool available for kitesurfing progression. Best of all, this golden resource is available for free. What’s not to love?

IMMERSIVE COACHING EXPERIENCES

Like learning a language, practising complex kiting techniques can be much easier with total immersion. There’s something about investing time and money - both hard-earned resources, that adds that oftentimes needed pressure to progress.

In my time kiting, I’ve been on two kite retreats and had a few odd hours of private coaching; I can comfortably say that this learning style is the right fit for me. Like those who prefer to work with a personal trainer instead of going it alone at the gym, I flourish when there’s a pro coach in my ear telling me what to do and how to do it! With more focused kite camps becoming available - freestyle, wave, foil, women’s exclusive, or complete beginner experiences - it’s easy for us as kilters to choose a program that interests us, setting ourselves up for success by learning in the right conditions with the right people.

Ben Wilson, who graced our Issue 86 cover with his mega wave at Cloudbreak, has been running Kite Weeks on Namotu Island for over 12 years. Every winter between June and August, the island in Fiji hosts seven sold-out Kite Weeks, bringing kilters from around the world; beginners, intermediate and advanced kilters, and even surfers, foilers, partners and friends who come for the atmosphere and fun.

NAMOTU KITE WEEK
RIDER DANNY BARNETTE
PHOTO STU GIBSON





“ MY GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE GUESTS HAVE THE ULTIMATE KITESURF AND OCEAN EXPERIENCE, AND QUITE POSSIBLY ONE OF THE BEST WEEKS OF THEIR LIFE!” ”

With direct beach and private boat access to world-class waves like Cloudbreak, Restaurants, Namotu Lefts, and Swimming Pools, this is arguably the best place in the world to work on your wave riding. The next crucial piece of the puzzle is their elite team; a world-class crew of coaches, private chefs, a yoga instructor, and a photographer. It's an immersive experience that delivers from the moment you step off the boat.

Coach Kirsty Jones says, “My goal is to make sure guests have the ultimate kitesurf and ocean experience, and quite possibly one of the best weeks of their life!”

Namotu Kite Week instructor Danny Barnette says, “It's amazing what you can learn in a week! A one-on-one coaching ratio creates unique learning opportunities for guests as their coach can specifically tailor each day's instruction and coaching styles to ensure daily growth and progression.” Brett Sheerin adds his comment, “A guest who gets to ride with experienced kite coaches in one of the best places on earth can't help but take their riding up to the next level just being around the vibe and inspiration,” adding,

“When you're riding with jet-ski support, and the eyes of us coaches on you at all times, you can push your limits knowing we will come to the rescue if anything goes wrong. Many have told me they'd try things they wouldn't normally.”

Whether it's going on a week-long kite retreat or hiring a pro coach for a couple of hours on the weekend, these experiences can be lightning bolts in your progression. You can't phone it in on a session if you've whipped out your wallet or travelled halfway around the world to engage the services of professional trainers. If you're feeling stuck and unable to push yourself further in kiting, or you're just in need of a guided kite holiday, it's time for professional help! You might be surprised by how quickly you progress.

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“ KITERS, AMATEUR AND PRO ALIKE, TRAIN AND TRAIN TO BECOME THE BEST, AND ONCE THEY’VE ACHIEVED THAT, THEY CAN TAKE THE FOOT OFF THE GAS, SOMETIMES WITHOUT EVEN REALISING IT. ”

COMPETITION ENHANCED LEARNING

It’s no secret that once you’re the best kiter at your local spot, the motivation to improve starts to slip away. Keters, amateur and pro alike, train and train to become the best, and once they’ve achieved that, they can take the foot off the gas, sometimes without even realising it. It’s only the arrival of a new kiter at the spot that can jump higher or land those extra rotations that reignite that competitive spirit.

Professional wave rider Sebastian Ribiero has been a frequent flyer in the competition scene. Years ago, when we didn’t have so many online learning tools at our disposal, often the only way to discover a new trick was to see it out in the wild. For Sebastian, the moment he saw another competitor perform a 360 air off a wave to beat him in a heat had him fired up. “I went back home and tried that turn over and over again... I remember getting hit on my head by the bar. After many hits, I finally figured out how to do it!”

You don’t have to be a pro-level rider to get caught up in the spirit of competition. Have you ever had an impromptu jumping competition with friends at your local kite spot? Whoever has the lowest jump has to buy the first round or something to that effect! A casual competition amongst friends can make progression fun and take the pressure off.



“EVEN COMPETING ONLY WITH YOURSELF, THE URGE TO IMPROVE GROWS NATURALLY, JUST BY LOOKING AT THE DATA.”

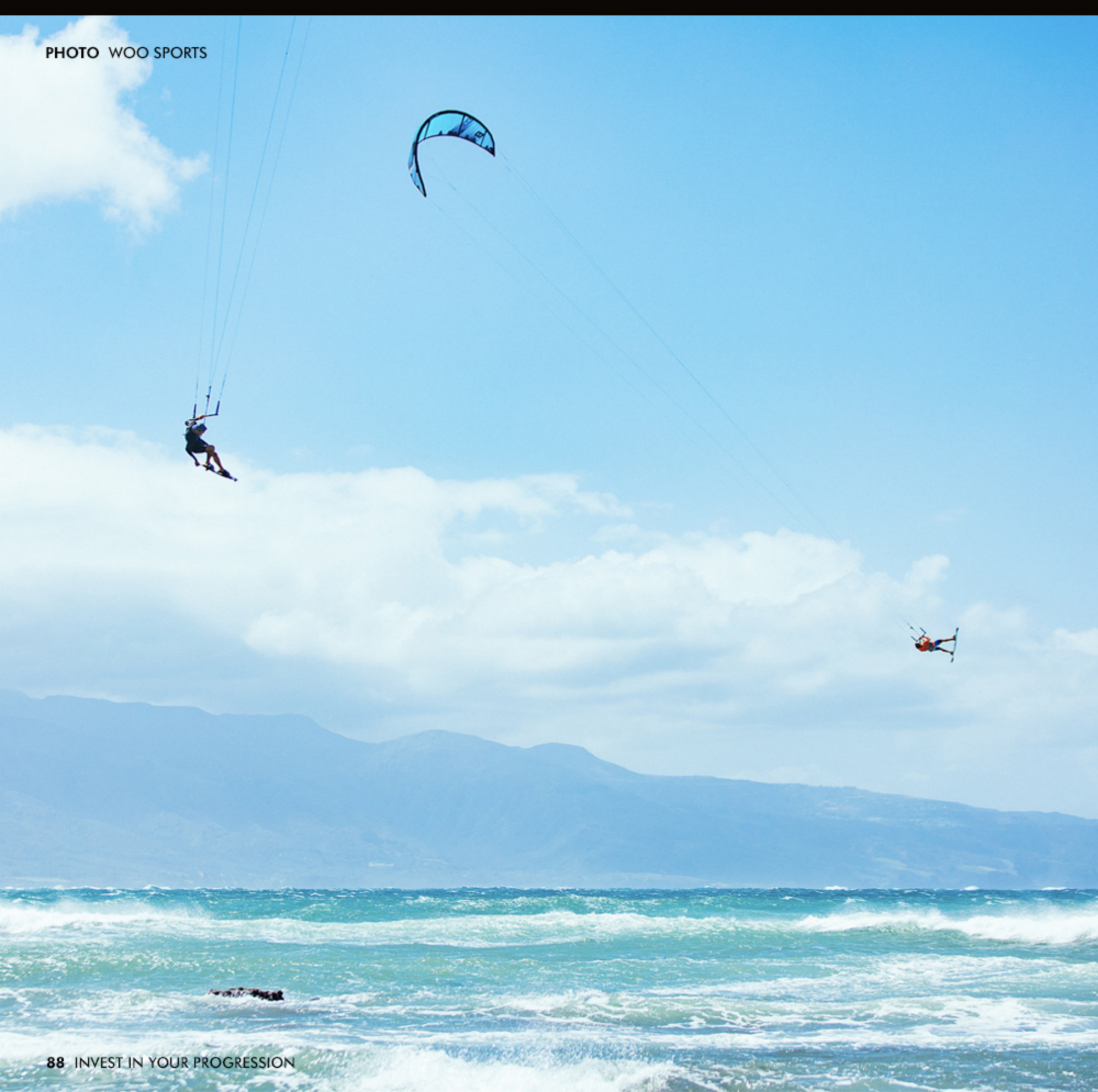
With products like the WOO Sensor available to us, we can monitor our progression simply by tracking our sessions. Think of it as a fitness watch for your kite session! The WOO is a small accelerometer that attaches to your board, originally designed to track jump height and hangtime. With the WOO 3.0, development has gone further, improving functionality in

tracking jumps, and adding tracking for freestyle, freeride, foil, and more. Even competing only with yourself, the urge to improve grows naturally, just by looking at the data.

We caught up with Leo Koenig, who shared why he created the WOO to gamify kiteboarding. “You think about football, and what a boring activity kicking the ball is. If it wasn’t for teams, games, leagues, championships, and so on, no one would care about football. The same applies to moving your thumb in the digital world (e.g. playing Candy Crush). Games have shown

the ability to alter human behaviour drastically, and the thought of using them to get people off their couches and back outside was a big motivator.”

With the new WOO App and the WOO Worlds competition, you don’t even need to buy a WOO device. You can log GPS sessions 100% for free, using Apple and Android phones, also integrating with Apple Watches. Garmin compatibility is coming up soon. If you don’t have a big crew at your local kite spot, you can join the international community and start competing with and against people all over the world! The fact that it’s free, and has several freeride categories, means the WOO Worlds competition can inspire progression for all riders, whatever the level.



“ PICK A TECHNIQUE, TRICK, OR CHALLENGE, AND COMMIT TO MAKING IT HAPPEN IN YOUR NEXT SESSION. ”

Endurance and dedication disciplines like Total Height, Total Distance, and Team Challenges mean that everyone can get involved. Innovative challenges like drawing a perfect heart on the water can be a real challenge to your skillset, encouraging precision and finesse. You don't have to be a pro to earn \$25k of cash prizes. Just signing up for a simple challenge will get you in the progression mindset and inspire you to ride even more; that in itself will make you a better kiteboarder.

If you haven't already downloaded the Duotone Academy and WOO apps, take your first tiny (and free) investment into your progression and do so. Pick a technique, trick, or challenge, and commit to making it happen in your next session.

For best results, get some accountability buddies involved in your mission! Best case scenario, it'll be a dopamine party on the water with the squad. Worst case, you'll have some kookalicious moments to laugh at - if you're not the one looking it up! Unlike keeping each other honest with fitness goals, these sessions can, and should, end with an ice-cold beer.

Don't let another day go by without learning something new. From the team at IKSURFMAG, good luck and good winds!



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WORDS STEVEN AKKERSDIJK

SOUTH AFRICA: THE ROAD TRIP

One of the hottest spots on everyone's 'MUST KITE' list is South Africa... and for good reason! Steven Akkersdijk returns to Cape Town for a trip, but things are slightly different this time! Buckle up and enjoy the ride as Steven and José take us off the beaten path on their journey across South Africa!

“ WE TRIED NOT TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AND LAMENTING OVER THE WINDY SUMMER WEATHER! ”

They say it's not about the destination; it's about the journey. Understandably, most journeys start with a destination in mind, and this one was no different. Every winter, I would escape the bitterly cold conditions in Europe's North Sea for the much more favourable summer season in South Africa.

It's no secret that the world we live in now is a little different from what we once knew. Getting on a plane is like rolling a dice, and uncertainty hovers over every itinerary. When South Africa opened up its borders to Europeans in December, José and I made the trek to our usual Southern Hemisphere summer spot near Cape Town, where we were swiftly caught up in yet another strict lockdown.

Suddenly, walking on the sand was a crime, and crossing the beach to go in the water could cost you a fine and a trip to the police station. These regulations lasted nearly two months in parts of the country, which happened to be the windiest parts! With similar lockdowns arising around Europe, waiting in place seemed to be the best choice. We tried not to spend too much time looking out the window and lamenting over the windy summer weather! Instead, we used the time to focus on work and kept ourselves fired up with legal activities like rock climbing and wing skating while we waited it out.

Once restrictions were lifted, we decided to extend our flights until the end of May to take full advantage of a quiet summer season in this stunning country.

RIDER STEVEN AKKERSDIJK
PHOTO JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD





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“ COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE WITH US, AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIND SOME INSPIRATION FOR YOUR VERY OWN JOURNEY ACROSS THE SPECTACULAR SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF AFRICA! ”

We collected a Toyota Hilux from Kenings Car Hire and concocted a plan to follow our itchy feet over to the surf paradise of Durban.

It's too easy to travel all the way to South Africa and get stuck in Cape Town - not even by lockdown, but by choice! Most kites that find themselves sending it through the sky over Kite Beach find the possibility of

missing the best session of their lives just too great to risk. But if you're ready to step out of the relative comfort of Cape Town, come along for the ride with us, and maybe you'll find some inspiration for your very own journey across the spectacular southernmost tip of Africa!

GARDEN ROUTE / CAPE ST. FRANCIS

The first part of our trip to Durban was very familiar. The N2 up towards Jeffreys Bay is also known as the Garden Route, and I'm pretty sure I've done this drive almost every season. Unfortunately, despite driving it so often,

I still got snatched on a couple of speed traps; make sure to stick to the speed limits when driving there and enjoy the incredible views! Next, I would recommend stopping in Wilderness to do the train track hike towards Victoria Bay. You'll have to cross an old bridge where you can look straight down to the water underneath. It's a must-do activity, but not for the faint-hearted!

From there on, the coast is filled with beautiful spots, beaches, canyons and little towns. Even though we drove straight to St. Francis on this trip, I would strongly suggest that you stop at some if not all of the following locations: Wilderness, Buffelsbaai, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and Nature's Valley.

RIDER JOEL DACE
PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK



“ THEY’VE ONLY BEEN KITEBOARDING FOR A YEAR, BUT IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE THEIR PROGRESS IN THE WAVES AND ON THE FLAT WATER SPOT. ”

After a full day of driving, we arrived in Cape St. Francis, where we met up with the Dace family. I had met them on the beach during one of my earlier trips, and I was immediately drawn to their stoke! Joel and Rory Dace are 16 and 13 years old, and both of them shred in the waves; not a big surprise when you've been brought up next to the ocean and come from a surfing family. They've only been kiteboarding for a year, but it was amazing to see their progress in the waves and on the flat water spot.

We had only planned to stay there for a week, but an amazing vibe, company and forecast kept us in St. Francis for almost three weeks! We stayed with the Dace family, and they showed us around the kite spots, which were all just around the corner from their house.

The "Kromrivier" river mouth provides nice flat water with easterly winds that are perfect for kite foiling on the lighter wind days and twin tip riding when the wind picks up. If you want some waves, you can kite upwind and out of the river mouth and onto the ocean, where you can find some easy rollers and a heavier shore break. Launching is easy next to the car park, but if you want to be next to the deep water straight away, you'll have to find a local with a boat.

I'm pretty sure most people have heard of J-Bay and the incredible waves that it delivers! Unfortunately, it's nearly impossible to kite Supertubes' main break as the wind is way too gusty from the houses around. Even if you make it out, you'll probably get eaten alive by the local crew, and I'm not talking about the sharks.

RIDER STEVEN AKKERSDIJK
PHOTO JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD



Luckily for the kiteboarders, the coastline is long and offers a couple of good spots on the southwesterly wind. For example, you could go to Oyster Bay to get some side-on conditions, and in the bay, from Cape St. Francis, you'll find side or side off wind with waves breaking on the sandbars. We spent most of our sessions here as I needed practice on my backhand, and José was super happy to be on her front side. Just keep in mind that the coastline here catches all the swell, and it will max out quickly!

**“THE COASTLINE HERE
CATCHES ALL THE
SWELL, AND IT WILL
MAX OUT QUICKLY!”**

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“ A TWISTING ROAD TOOK US CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE OCEAN. LOOKING AT GOOGLE MAPS, WE COULDN'T BELIEVE THE TIME INDICATED IT WAS GIVING US. ”

When you drive a bit further north, you have a little kite spot called "Paradise Beach". This spot offers a flat water session when the wind blows southwest. Keep in mind that it can get gusty if there is not enough west in the wind. If you don't mind driving, Sardinia Bay is probably your best bet. In the SW wind, it has two sides from the sandbar that you can kite on. On the left, you'll find side-offshore wind and on the other, side-onshore wind. Kiting here can be fun on either a surfboard or a twin tip.

UP NORTH INTO THE UNKNOWN / TRANSKEI

After an incredible time in Cape St. Francis, it was time to continue our trip towards Durban. We stopped near East London when we passed by Areena Riverside resort. They have a fairly big property where Abby (a giraffe) is roaming around. It's mind-blowing seeing an animal of that size! There are a couple of real game lodges in the area there as well, and if you've never been on a game drive, it's well worth it!

We continued our drive on the N2 towards Mthatha, where we took a right towards Coffee Bay. A twisting road took us closer and closer to the ocean. Looking at Google Maps, we couldn't believe the time indicated it was giving us. There was only 30km left, and the remaining driving time was over an hour! We quickly realised that driving on the small roads that connect the villages in the Transkei can be very slow going.



RIDER JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD
PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK



Not only did we end up with some classic Transkei traffic (cows, pigs and dogs roaming around freely and occasionally crossing our path), the road was filled with potholes that even gave our pickup a beating! The last 30km to our lodge were the slowest we've been driving during our entire trip, but the views were breathtaking!

“THE ROAD WAS FILLED WITH POTHOLES THAT EVEN GAVE OUR PICKUP A BEATING!”



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“THE COASTLINE IS SHAPED BY SMALL CLIFFS WHERE ROCKY AND SANDY BAYS PROVIDE WORLD-CLASS SURF BREAKS.”

The Transkei is unlike anything I've ever experienced before; dirt roads connecting to small villages with beautiful round and colourful rondavels (typical shack in the Transkei) made out of clay. The coastline is shaped by small cliffs where rocky and sandy bays provide world-class surf breaks.

It was a crazy experience to come from the J-Bay area where you lie shoulder to shoulder to these empty lineups. It's also quite intimidating as this coastline is quite sharky, and the closest real hospital is about a 5-hour drive. Nevertheless, we had a beautiful first day where we parked on top of the hill and could walk down for a surf without a wetsuit.

The following days, a medium-sized swell hit the coast, and pretty much all of the spots we checked were completely maxed out, save for some reforms on the inside break

for surf foiling. When going to the Transkei, it makes sense to line up your trip with the right forecast. If the swell is too big, you won't be able to surf the point breaks, and it's also possible to get hit with loads of rain.

We were quite fortunate with the wind, which usually picked up in the afternoon for a fun session in the Mdumbi river mouth. This spot provided a fun mix of waves and flat water with the added benefit of being able to park our car right at the spot.

Next to kiteboarding and surfing, this place is amazing for hiking and exploring the coastline. You'll find a herd of cattle roaming around on the beaches and the hills.



Empty beaches with just a couple of fishermen make this a truly unique experience. If you're in for a spot that's a bit less off the grid but still very unique and beautiful, you could drive to Coffee Bay, where you can also find the "Hole in the Wall". We skipped this drive, though, as we weren't quite ready for the persistent panhandlers after such a peaceful experience in the Transkei. If you do go, be ready for kids to run after your car yelling "SWEEEEETTTSSS!" It's a timeless Coffee Bay tradition!

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“ THE TRANSKEI IS A PLACE I WOULD LOVE TO COME BACK TO WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS TO MAXIMISE THE EMPTY LINEUPS AND SCORE SOME EPIC CONDITIONS! ”

THE LAST STRETCH TOWARDS DURBAN

After a week in the middle of nowhere and loads of rain in the forecast, we decided to drive towards Durban, which started with 2 hours of dirt roads. After that, the scenery slowly changed from small huts and flowing hills to big flats with massive roads full of cars. After spending about a month in less populated areas, it was a real shock to be back in the city.

As it was already the end of April when we arrived in Durban, the wind season made way for the waves, and we could see that in the forecast. Some days had strong wind forecasted, but usually, this would fade as the days came closer. In the end, we only managed to get some kite foiling and loads of surfing in when we were there.

I was surprised to see the power of the waves there; in Cape Town, 2m swell at 9 seconds hardly has any power at all. In Durban, you'll find standing barrels that will push you straight onto the sand. Next to that, the current will sweep you down the beach, and the paddle out can take ages when you time it wrong. A welcome challenge, but one best saved for strong swimmers!

REFLECTING ON THE TRIP

Looking back on our trip to South Africa, it puts a big smile on my face. The Transkei is a place I would love to come back to with a group of friends to maximise the empty lineups and score some epic conditions! There is so much to see in South Africa between the big cities, so if you ever find yourself lacking inspiration for a road trip, I can recommend this one!

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WING SIZES 1000 SQCM

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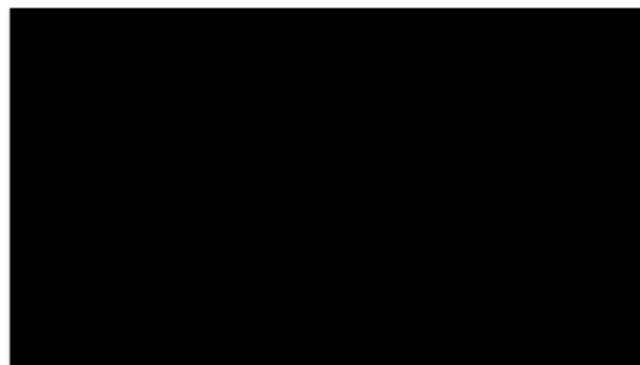


"My tacks are on point. And it's so playful and dynamic that it gives me even more freedom to experiment." - Steven



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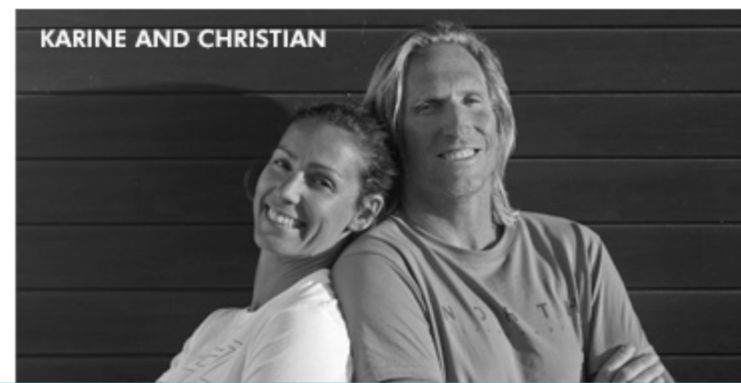
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It would appear that this issue is, although unintentionally, firmly focused on rotations. We've got an entire spectrum of variations, double front roll grab, toeside to toeside double front, and back roll board off. The reason? Conditions. We've been privy to wind, but it's been all over the shop, up and down, changing direction, and whenever it's graced us with its presence, the tide has been far from perfect and the resultant water state somewhat on the choppy side. Now before you accuse us of moaning, we're not. These are hard facts, but even more important is the fact that it's been fun to be out there, and it's as enjoyable as ever to be kiting, as long as you marry your tricks to the conditions. These beauties will work in anything you can jump in! :)

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DOUBLE FRONT ROLL GRAB >

Kite - North Reach 9m

Board - North Focus Hybrid 139

To self-quote from an earlier article – “It’s an unwritten fact, that to really prove yourself as an accomplished front loop, you must learn to slow your rotation down, so that your complete 360 matches perfectly the time you spend in the air. This, of course, shows great control, adds oodles of style, and concerning this next move, teaches you how to land from a non-completed, almost stalled rotation. It’s also very true that there is more than one way to claim any double rotation, and one is to merely throw yourself into whichever spin you fancy with all the enthusiasm of a hungry mosquito.” This still holds true today, although it’s no longer considered a loop but a roll, as it means that you don’t need momentum for two complete rolls to claim this. To further up the ante, we’ll be adding a grab, which will potentially open the door to a whole roomful of tricks. Hungry? Let’s do it!

To make the double front roll with a tail grab an achievable reality, you should look at it as one rotation on the way up and another on the way down. Sounds simple enough? You already know that you can get around the one, so if you can speed up your first rotation, you’ll leave yourself with enough time to throw the second one before touchdown. This may be all well and good, but let us throw in the one thing that’ll make all the difference – kite control. Doing the right thing with the kite when flying it with one hand is what will give you the time, float, confidence and



consistency in this move. This is, of course, assuming that you’re already a happy, grabby front roller!

The Launch Pic A

You don’t need to go massive, but you do need a decent amount of hang time to make this work. Set up as per a usual front roll. Kite around 1 or 11 o’clock, good solid upwind edge, enough power that you’re feeling excited but not overwhelmed, and plenty of space with some deep water underneath you. You know from doing a single front roll how important the stamp is to get us rotating, but here you need to give special attention to the kite and our edge. Why? You want to go up and be supported rather than shoot off under the kite downwind. This means holding your edge for as long as possible, which means sending your kite and kicking into your front roll correctly.

First, the kite. You’ll want to give it a good send, but whilst doing that, you want to make sure it goes up



over 12 o’clock to maximise lift and cut down on drift. This means feathering the bar out when you send it. You don’t want to dump power, but you want to be able to keep committed upwind on your edge until the kite is high. If you just hold your bar right in as if someone’s trying to steal it from you, the kite will not travel as much around the edge of the window, and you’ll get pulled earlier. Word of warning, though: If you dump too much, the kite won’t lift and will travel way too far back. Something to practice!

Next, your front roll. It’s always been about stamping yourself upwind of the board through your back heel whilst trying to get your head down to the nose of the board as the front knee lifts. Same again here. However, if you throw yourself into the rotations as if your life depends on it, you’ll give away your edge at the most crucial time. You need a more aggressive stamp, but in the same direction as normal – against your edge.

The kite and your kick work in harmony. Have a look at Christian, he's kicked hard and extended his back leg and body up and thrown his shoulders down into the loop, not across. This means a lot of up. He's also already steering the bar forwards to stop the kite from going any further back, knowing that shortly he'll be releasing his back hand.

Tail Watching Pic B

Grabbing should be as per usual. By that, we mean both the timing and the method. In a front roll, there is a natural order. As you start to rotate and lift your legs, the back leg will come towards you as you start to face upwind, as a result of the shoulders going down and forwards to the nose. This gives you the perfect opportunity to release your back hand and look at the tail where you'd like to grab it. You can see in the photo the natural "tilt" of the rotation and how the tail of the board offers itself to Christian. Make sure you keep the bar on the sweet spot, as you don't want to lose any support.

Head in the Game Pic C

Once you've got the grab, it's time to turn all of your attention to rotating, getting your head in the game both literally and figuratively. On the literal side of things, you should look over your back shoulder.



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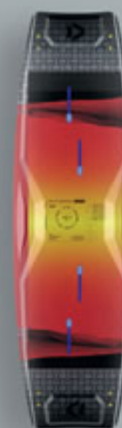
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This won't speed up your rotation, but it will prevent it from slowing down, and that's a big plus. Figuratively, you need to think about the kite. If you gave the kite a decent send and it's a 10 or smaller, it's probably still behind you. You must get it moving forwards over 12 as this will help you into your second rotation and give you more hang time. You can see that Christian has his grab, his knees are up, he's looking over his back shoulder, and he's steering the kite forwards with his front hand. It's worth noting that Christian is actually using his thumb on the opposite side of the bar to help steer. This way, he can steer the kite forwards without sheeting in or out.

Slowly Unravelling Pic D

As long as your head is turned and the kite is not behind you, you will rotate into a second roll. However, inertia will be lost, momentum waning, and you'll be slowing down. In this picture, Christian is about a



quarter of the way into number two, he can see upwind as his head is still turned, and he's peering hopefully over his back shoulder as everything slows down. However, rather than wistfully contemplating his kick into the move, he instead focuses on how to finish.

Leading Out Pic E

And this, ladies and gents, is where we come all the way back to the wonderful stalled front roll we cited in the intro. You'll use the very same skills to finish this off. The one difference being that you won't have actually stopped, and you want to make sure that you don't! Your first objective is to get some pull from the kite. If it's diving, it will pull you downwind, and with this pressure on your harness hook, you'll have a point around which to turn. Your second objective is to show yourself the way. Where the head goes, the body follows. Here is no different. Get your eyes on the prize, focus on whereabouts you think you'll land,



and lead with your head. You can see that Christian's board is pointing into the wind, as is his bar. However, his head is looking forwards and down, forcing his back shoulder down, which balances everything perfectly around his harness and the pull from the kite. It's probably a good time to release your grab!

Bring It Through Pic F

And the result. With the kite pulling and the head leading, you can pull your front leg and the board through from upwind until they're beneath you and ready for landing. The action is similar to bringing the board through for toeside, as you're not using your upper body, just twisting your lower body, hips, knees, feet and board. Action Man would be proud. Looking at Christian, you can see that his lower half is all lined up and pointing downwind. He's dropped his undercarriage and will land on and over the board, nice and flat!



TOP TIPS

The best place to start is making sure that the doubles are in the bag and working well. If it's been a while, start with some singles but rather than controlling your spin, give it everything and keep the bar on the sweet spot throughout. You'll find yourself over-rotating. From here, you can then be more aggressive with your send and your kick-off. The height paired with the extra momentum should get you most of the way around.

Then add the grab as you would for a single front. The difference of only having one hand on the bar is that you won't feel where the kite is as obviously as if you had two hands on the bar. Hopefully, from the timing you got from using two hands, you can now commit to pulling the kite forwards with one hand, which will give you the ability to come all the way around and stomp it.

Have a look at the sequence and videos to get the move etched in your psyche!

COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're getting most of the way around but landing on your back, hip or bum. This is a sure sign that you're either not keeping the bar in or not getting the kite back above you after take-off. With the kite left behind, it is easy to get the spin as you'll pivot around the lines, but you'll have no float and no forward momentum, so really concentrate on flying the kite forwards.

If you're missing the grab. This can be a positive as it means you're concentrating on getting the kite forwards. However, there is 'the' perfect moment to grab, so make sure you seize the opportunity when it's gifted to you. Once that moment is past, you won't be able to see the tail, and it'll be more difficult to grab.

If you're getting height and float but then stalling the second rotation. Chances are that you're letting the

bar out as you come around the first loop. This is a habit that many kites get into, dropping out of a loop rather than pulling out of a loop with the power from the kite. Once again, concentrate on keeping the bar in throughout the loop and commit to diving the kite to complete the second rotation.

KEYSTONES

1. Solid edge, good speed, positive send.
2. Level bar and kick super hard upwind.
3. Drop front shoulder, lift legs, grab tail.
4. Turn head, keep bar in and steer forwards.
5. Look, lead and dive kite. Bring legs through.



TOESIDE DOUBLE FRONT ROLL TO TOESIDE >

Kite - North Reach 9m

Board - North Focus Hybrid 139

Let's be honest, spinning once is undeniably brilliant! Does that mean spinning twice is doubly brilliant? What if it's from toeside? And what if it's to toeside? There's only one, sorry, two ways to find out. Give it a go and nail it. Perhaps a tenuous motivational tactic, but any excuse to try something new is gold dust in our book.

This is one of those extremely satisfying moves. When it works, it really flows, whilst it has the benefit of working in umpteen different conditions so you can pull it out of the hat whenever and wherever you see fit. Let's get to it.

Toeside Pic A

As with all toeside moves, your toeside and resultant approach will have a massive impact on what follows. With a double rotation to squeeze in, you will undoubtedly need some speed, a solid edge from which to kick, and enough time and float in the air to complete the required "twice". If you're a regular to these pages, you'll know the readying drill for toe take-offs, but it never hurts to recap. To make it efficient, you have to learn to get your weight forwards, trimming the board from front to back whilst still edging. Look at the picture where you can see plenty of Christian's board in the water. Suffice to say, you need to get your weight forwards and onto your front foot. The easiest way to do this is to open your chest and hips, facing forwards down the board



so that you have a shoulder each side. This with a bent front knee, hips and head dipped forwards and both knees driving forwards, pointing in the same direction and working together. It is easier to adopt this position if you let your back foot twist in the strap and point forwards. Always the same analogy here; think of a surfer racing down the line or a slalom snowboarder in hard boots. Coming into any toeside trick, this is your approach position. From here, like Christian, you can give the kite a good send from 11 or 1 o'clock, whilst dropping your weight to counter the rising kite.

Kick-Off Pic B

Not quite Italy vs England, but you want to at least sting the goalie's hands. You've got some height to get and two spins to get around, so one mighty kick is in order. Your stamp, kick, explosion, and extension needs to be directed against your edge. This will send



you up, helping the kite lift you up and around with purpose. The temptation here is to throw your head and shoulders across the board in an effort to rotate as quickly as possible. Save yourself the effort as it'll be counterproductive. Looking at the pic, Christian has kicked hard off his back foot, extending up. It's clear to see that even though he has already left the water, his body is still upwind of the board. This means that the send forced the kite up to 12, and he'll get maximum bang for his buck in the rotation department. All energy harnessed, none given away charitably! He's also levelled the bar as he doesn't want the kite carrying on any further back than necessary. All the rotation comes from the combination of the front shoulder dipping aggressively down towards the nose of the board. This shoulder movement, combined with the pull back on the harness hook by the sending kite, will get you rolling.

Front Roll Pic C

Once you're on the go, you can treat this much like you would a normal front roll, or if you have it in the bag, a normal double. You want to make sure that you rotate quickly, no stalling, smiling for the camera or taking in the scenery; this is business! First things first, make sure that your head is leading the rotation and not getting left behind. You can look over your trailing shoulder, bite your ear, sniff your armpit, whatever trigger you need. You need float, so make sure the bar is in the sweet spot, and if you gave the kite a decent send, you want to encourage it forwards a touch. Here Christian is steering his kite forwards, both knees are up, so he's small and will rotate more quickly, his head is turning, and his bar is in. With everything lined up from here, you're guaranteed to stick front roll number one.

Number Two Pic D

And if all goes to plan, you'll end up here, with one down and one to go. You will still have momentum from your take-off, but the second rotation will require some extra attention, just to be sure. Once again, get your head leading, and if it's not already fully turned, turn it as far as you can. Stay small, keeping your knees up and the board near you.



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Now the bit that doesn't come so naturally: Start to gently dive your kite for landing. Don't give it everything, but steer it sufficiently forwards so that it gives you some pull. This will give you a touch more time and float as the kite moves, and with a bit of forward movement, it gives you a point about which to rotate. In short, you need to get your kite into the forward side of the window, ahead of you. You'll then have help and more time to rotate. Christian has fully turned his head, he's diving the kite and keeping small.

Patience Pic E

If you compare this picture with the previous one, Christian hasn't turned that much. What is crucial, though, is that it's enough to be able to see your landing and where you want to go. With a target to aim for, you'll find it simpler to bring your body and board through the rest of the rotation. Funnily enough, if you put your feet down now, you'd theoretically



land toeside. However, because the kite is pulling you downwind for the landing, you're better off keeping your feet and board up until you come around the last little bit so that your board is pointing in the same direction as you're travelling.

Touch Down Pic F

With the kite pulling you downwind, your patience will be rewarded. You don't actually want to land toeside. You're aiming to land with your board pointing downwind, your weight over the board, following the diving kite. From here, you can then regain your composure, sort the kite, shift your weight onto the balls of your feet and carve up onto your toeside edge. Looking at Christian, he's landing following the kite and over the board. He's steering the kite up out of the dive, and as it rises, he flexes his ankles, pushing his knees across the board to weight the toeside edge and carve back up.



TOP TIPS

Working on your approach and take-off is everything. As we already alluded to, this means a strong, dynamic toeside position from which you can resist and therefore send the kite with meaning. Really work on getting your hips and weight forwards. If your front leg is straight, soften it, bend it and get low. You might find that to do this, you need to take your front hand off the bar. Obviously, this will make sending the kite tricky. If you can keep your position and reach the bar, brilliant. If you can't, you'll need to trim a touch to bring the sweet spot and, therefore, the bar a bit closer.

Bring the kite forwards again, up and over 12 o'clock, as your spinning will give you a noticeable amount of extra time to make it around number two, so feel this into your attempts, bit by bit.

Now have a look at the sequence and video to see how it all pans out on the water.



COMMON PROBLEMS

Assuming that you've got your toeside position sorted, these are the three most likely culprits when it doesn't go quite as hoped.

Only completing one rotation, even with an aggressive send and a monster kick-off. Generally speaking, this is because you've left the kite behind

12 o'clock after taking off. It's a position that works well in many jumps, when we're grabbing and when we want more control and less drift. However, you need the lift and pull for a double. With the kite back, it can prevent you from going into the second rotation. Make sure you level the bar on take-off and steer the kite forwards throughout the move.

Landing on your back after completing one and a half. This can be caused by losing or not holding your edge at take-off. If you get pulled by the kite because you're yanking the bar in, or you can't reach the bar because your sweet spot is too far out and therefore force it in, you'll lose your edge early. If you throw yourself across the board looking for a quick spin, you'll also release your edge too early and have the same problem. Too much downwind drift won't allow you to get all the way around.

If you're getting around but keep landing with weight on your heels and therefore carving away from toeside. Most likely it's because you haven't dived the kite. If the kite is diving, it's head down and forwards, pulling you with it. This means as you land, it should help pull you up onto the board. If it's still up high, it won't help, and you're more likely to come down heavily on your heels.

KEYSTONES

1. Solid toeside stance and positive send.
2. Big kick against edge, shoulders down, and head turned to rotate.
3. Redirect kite throughout move.
4. Kite must be forwards to complete second rotation.
5. Dive kite to land downwind and carve upwind.



BACK ROLL TAIL GRAB BOARD OFF >

Kite - North Reach 9m

Board - North Focus Hybrid 139

There is no set course in kiting. Once you're up and riding, the world is your oyster, kiting your canvas. Different craft, moves, priorities. Whatever lights you up from cruising to quite literally bruising. That said, there are some logical paths which you can follow as you improve, and in this case, we're following the jumping path. You get confident and add a cheeky grab, and before you know it, you're dreaming of a one foot and fantasising over a board off. It is easy to obsess over an extra metre of height, when you could curb the frustration by adding something to your already achievable flying skills. This holds just as true to your rotations, which brings us perfectly onto the subject of this piece, the back roll tail grab board off. You don't need record-breaking height, storm winds or the latest kit, just a decent back roll and a modicum of patience.

Your precursors for this, well, it'll help no end if you've got a slow sent back roll, and we'd definitely recommend that you can already board off with a tail grab. The back roll board off is not the most intuitive of moves, so having the two fundamental parts already firmly stuffed in the bag will allow you to concentrate on putting them together and on the intricacies of the move. The great news is that you don't need to go huge, so you can practice this in any conditions that you can jump in. In short, you're aiming for a slowly rotated upright back roll, into which you can fit the tail grab board off.



Right, let's see how this pieces together.

Take Off Pic A

Your approach will be as per any sent back roll, with a good upwind edge, sweet spot trimmed to midway, comfortable speed and kite no higher than 1 or 11. Your send needs to be positive, steering the kite with meaning. However, short and sharp is what you're looking for. When you get the kite moving quickly, it'll generate lift sooner. If you drift it leisurely back, you won't feel much until it's way past 12 o'clock. The big problem with taking off with the kite back behind you is that it'll encourage you to roll back and force a more off-axis, leaning back rotation. Super sexy in its own right, but it'll make the board off so much harder. Along with this, you want to add a decent kick up against the edge, which will allow you to take off a touch earlier, preventing you from carving hard up



into your rotation. The benefit, both a slower rotation and a more upright back roll. And finally, as with all board offs, either wiggling your feet a bit looser in the straps or loosening them off prior to the trick will make the off and on more achievable. If you look at Christian in the photo, his kite is just past 12, he's levelled his bar, his head is square to his shoulders, looking forwards, not upwind, and he's on the way up more than around. This balancing act between up and your back roll is key. A slow rotation gives you time, but too slow, and you won't rotate enough.

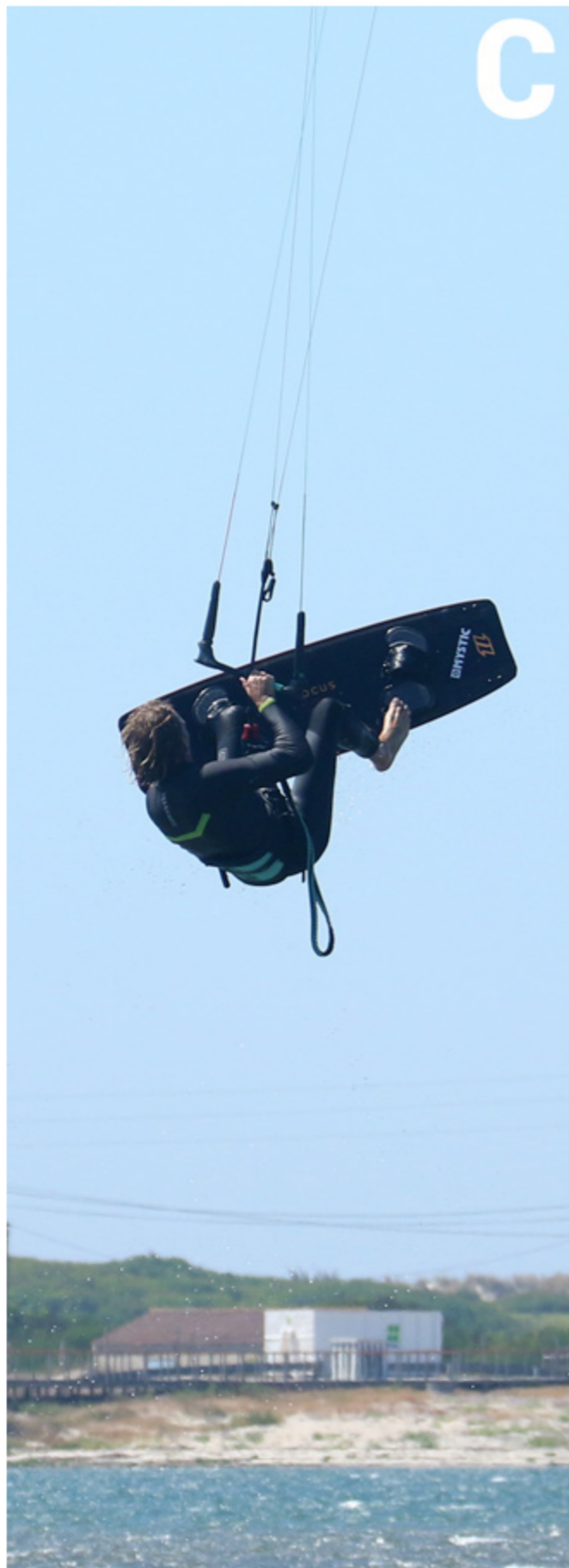
Prep Work Pic B

Due to the extended nature of your take-off, now is all about getting everything into place so that you can attempt the board off. Once again, make sure the kite is above you. If it feels a bit back, steer forwards before you release your back hand.

Bring your knees up high so that the board is close. Keep the bar in on the sweet spot so that you have float. And as you look for where to grab, try to keep your head up, chin down as close to the bar as possible. Naturally, you'll want to bring the feet up, over and around. To keep your rotation more upright, keep your head near the bar, and you'll resist the temptation to rock back. Glance over at Christian, his head is up, bar is in, and the kite is high whilst he releases his back hand and looks for the grab near the heelside tail fin.

The Board Off Pic C

You want to aim to get the board off as early in the rotation as possible, preferably by the time you're halfway round and facing into the wind. Any later, you'll run out of time, as you'll be slipping it off as you drop rather than as you rise towards the apex of your jump. Getting it off will be the same as you're hopefully accustomed to, using your grab to hold the board steady whilst you tilt the heelside of the board away from you and slide your feet out. However, there are a couple of points to consider due to the nature of the rotation. As already mentioned, you want to be upright, rotating on as vertical an axis as possible.



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The main reason for this is that with the board up high, you're not in a great position to hold the board away from you as the wind catches it and tries to blow it back onto your head. If it's lower, you can keep your arm straight and fight the wind. In the picture, Christian may not be completely vertical and upright, but he's much more upright than normal in his back roll. The second point is how you can help keep the board away from you as you come through the wind. You'll actually see this better in the video, and this is the unintuitive bit. Just before sliding your feet out, extend your legs. This way, you place the board further away from you, and you have a fraction longer to get out and back in. If you take the board

off and it's already on your shins, you're making life much tougher than it needs to be.

Foot Fetish Pic D

Here we go! With the board off, be proud of your pinkies and get them on display. A quick out and in is all that's necessary, but by briefly extending your legs, you can lay claim to having removed the board. Whilst you're waving your feet at the seagulls, you need to keep the board in place. Your back arm and wrist need to be strong, keeping the board at arm's length and angled away from you. Don't let the base of your hand bend in towards your forearm, but rather try and keep your thumb perpendicular to your arm, as



this will stop the nose of the board from bending in and resting on part of your anatomy. Finally, make sure you bring your arm with you, don't leave it and the board behind as you rotate. Here you can see that Christian's synapses have managed to communicate the memo to his feet, and whilst he airs them, he's keeping the board in place by locking out his arm and wrist. It's worth keeping your eye on your board. This way, you'll see if it has any violent intent towards you, and it'll also help maintain a slow rotation.

Front Foot First Pic E

The beauty with the tail grab board off is that you don't need to be flexible to get the board off or on.

Our passion is to put innovation
and creation at the service
of our pleasure in the ocean.

 MANERA

 MANERA



F



G

Once your feet have fleetingly bared themselves, get them back into hiding. Couple of things to consider: You're most likely on your way down now, so a bit of extra lift will be welcome. Get on the front hand and steer the kite forwards. As it moves, it'll hold you up just that tad longer, which will give you more time to get your feet in and complete the rotation. As for getting your boots back in the stirrups, when you're holding the tail, it's front foot first. You can see Christian is watching and guiding his front foot into the front strap whilst holding the board steady. He's also steering the kite for lift.

Back Foot Pic F

Once your front foot is in, you'll have much more stability with the board anchored on two points,

hand and foot. This means that you'll feel more balanced, and you'll have more confidence to slot the back foot in whilst starting to dive the kite for the upcoming landing. Once again, Christian is looking at his back strap so that he can guide his foot in without stubbing his toes. As his back foot feels its way in, Christian can steer more aggressively with his front hand to get the kite diving for landing.

Familiar Territory Pic G

With the kite diving and the resultant pull, you will be able to turn your head and look downwind towards where you'll land. Hold your legs up so that your board comes around with you and your feet staying firmly planted in the straps. In the photo, Christian is looking at his landing zone, getting his back hand back on the

bar, and with the board held up, he'll be able to land over it, flat and balanced as per any good reception.

TOP TIPS

Practice both parts separately to get the muscle memory going. Bash out a few board offs and a handful of slow back rolls. For the board offs, concentrate on keeping the arm and wrist strong so you can hold the board steady, don't let the nose drop. In the back rolls, concentrate on a short sharp send, an early stamped take-off and a more upright position.

Loosening your foot straps will make it easier to learn. You can wiggle your feet loose, which helps in getting the board off, but it can still make it tricky to get back in. If you're confident of getting them back in quickly,



you'll be more confident to steer and dive the kite for landing and be rewarded with that secondary lift.

You don't need to be lit, but if you're underpowered, you'll have to swing the kite like a baton twirler to get off the water, and everything will seem rushed and difficult. A larger floaty kite will give you more time to learn.

Have a walk-through of the sequence and a good look at the videos to see the process in full.

COMMON PROBLEMS

The most likely and undoubtedly most annoying problem is a violent or amorous board. Whether it's slapping you on the shins or cuddling up close when you'd rather keep it at arm's length, the wind will

always try and push the board towards you when it's upwind of you. Keep your arm and wrist strong, and make sure you extend your legs slightly away from you before sliding the board off. This can also be a result of taking the board off too late, as the wind is straight on the entire underside. If you can get it off before the nose passes fully through the wind, you'll be the one choosing to pull it around.

If you've got no time, it's as sure as hell that you're spinning too quickly. Make sure that you keep your back leg strong and don't turn your head as you turn up. However, even with perfect form, if the kite is swinging madly past 12, it will pull you around quickly, so concentrate as well on a shorter send and a hefty levelling of the bar on take-off.

Keystones

1. Good edge, short sharp send.
2. Stamp and level, head up.
3. Push board away with legs as you slide it off.
4. Strong arm and wrist.
5. Front foot and dive, back foot and land.



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The key to a good session is trust and comfort in your gear. I know when I'm out there the Gem harness literally has my back, fitting seamless to leave me free to ride as I dream.

— Bruna Kajiya



HAKUNA MATATA ZANZIBAR

WORDS TUSIA WITKOWSKA PHOTOS PILIPILI KITE SCHOOL

Is there any fantasy as captivating as fleeing 'the real world' to soak up the sun and session every day on a tropical island? Polish couple Tusia and Daniel did just that, choosing to put down roots in Zanzibar! Find out if the reality matches the fantasy in this article!

“ IMAGINE ENDLESS BLUE, SHALLOW WATER WITH TROPICAL SUN, CONSTANT WIND. AND PICTURESQUE PALM TREES. ”



If you were to paint a mental picture of Poland, your thoughts might be full of enchanting old-world architecture, plump pierogis, and the energetic city of Kraków. This story, however, is not about Poland; That is only the first chapter of the book!

Our love for the sea began at home, in a spot called Rewa. Many people aren't aware that our northern coastline on the Baltic Sea receives warm, summer winds, creating ideal kiting conditions. We ran a kite school in this spot for many years, sharing our love for this beautiful sport.

As with all kites, especially instructors, the lure of foreign winds was impossible to resist. We spent six years travelling the world, teaching along the way and competing in kite events on beaches in Brazil, the Caribbean, Italy, Turkey, Thailand, and Egypt, to name a few of our favourites.

Our love for warm, windy locales made it impossible to resist the opportunity that came before us last May. When we received a call with an offer to open a kite school in Zanzibar, we were enchanted. Imagine endless blue, shallow water with tropical sun, constant wind, and picturesque palm trees. Instantly, we knew the next chapter of our lives was about to begin!

Is it sensible to open a kite school in a foreign country during a pandemic? Well, perhaps not, but we did anyway! In September 2020, we hopped on a flight to Zanzibar to set up our kite school in a spot with what may be the best teaching conditions in the world. We haven't looked back!

Light & Strong

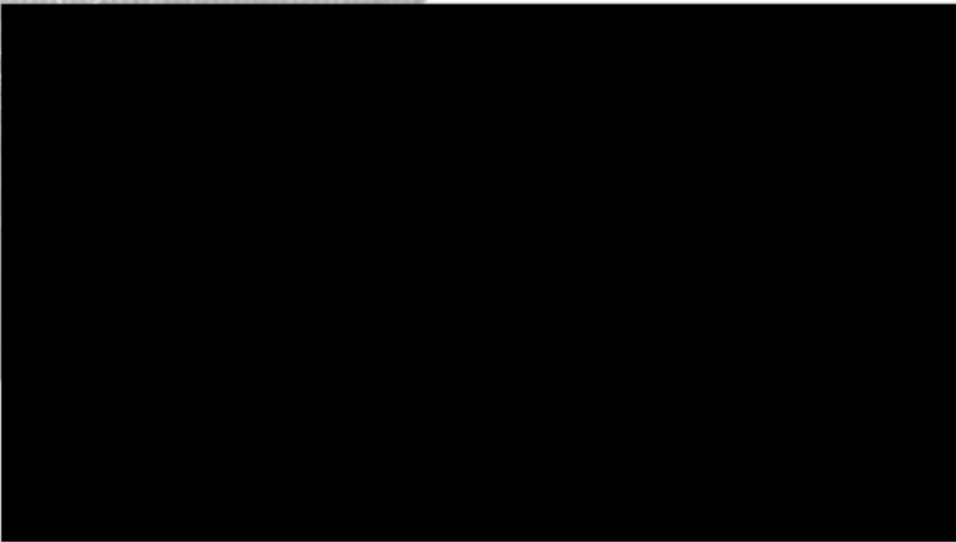
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TerTex is two times stronger than our Triplex triple ripstop and forty percent lighter than the Dacron material we use. Used on all struts and wingtips of all 2022 CrazyFly kites, TerTex radically reduces kite weight. Lighter kites have better low end, move faster through the air, are easier to relaunch and turn quicker.



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| | | | | |
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“ WITH HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY YEAR-ROUND, ONE THING IS FOR SURE; THE BEST PLACE TO BE IS ON THE WATER! ”

Zanzibar life is at its own pace; Nobody here looks at a watch, which is not so handy when trying to run a business! They say "pole, pole", which means "slowly, slowly". There is no rush at all. Our school is based in the small village of Jambiani, and, at times, it feels like we've travelled 20 years back in time. Everybody knows everybody, and nobody looks at their phones; you have to wander

around the village searching if you want to find your friends! The shops have just the basics, so you have to go to Stone Town, which holds a spot on the UNESCO World Heritage List, to get anything specific. Traffic is crazy, with cars, bikes, scooters, pedestrians, and even chickens, goats, cows, and cats sharing the same roads. Driving here, especially at night, is for thrill-seekers only!

Living here compels you to wake up and go to bed very early because Zanzibar is located just south of the equator. The sun rises at 6:30 am and sets at 6:30 pm every day of

the year. The weather is the biggest difference, though, with the lowest temperature of the year being 25 degrees in winter.

This place is unique because you can travel here year-round, though April and May are often quite rainy, and the Christmas and New Years holidays can be crowded and expensive. The winter season is the best for kiting, with stronger winds up to 25 knots in July and August. The summer winds offer great conditions between mid-December and mid-March, with a light but steady wind blowing 12-17 knots most days. With high temperatures and humidity year-round, one thing is for sure; the best place to be is on the water!

We have two of the most popular kite spots here, with Paje being the most widely known for its vast swathes of clear, blue water. The tides come and go fast, making this place magical and ever-changing. With no reefs or boats to avoid, it's a nice spot for beginners with lots of kite schools on the beach. If your travel companions aren't kiting, they'll be happy to put their feet up at one of the many beachfront bars and restaurants.

Just 15 minutes by car from Paje is Jambiani, which is where we've chosen to base our school. It's calm and quiet, with only a few kite schools operating. During low tide, it's only a few minutes walk into the ocean, where flat, knee-depth, and urchin-free water awaits. You can't ask for better teaching conditions, and experienced riders can always find a place to throw down some tricks. At high tide, boats pepper the shoreline, something to be cautious of as kilters, but a great place to barter for your after-session catch of the day! We are still exploring new places here, but it's hard to find better spots than Paje or Jambiani.

Of course, starting a business in Africa does not come without its challenges. But we were ready for the challenge, and unsurprisingly, the first one was Covid. When we first arrived in September 2020, the island looked abandoned. Kite spots were closed, and beaches were empty. Luckily, the island never closed for tourism, and by October 2020, Zanzibar was 'Covid free', and tourism was on the rise again. All you need to travel here is a negative result on a Covid test!

We can't say for sure that there is no Covid on the island, but life has gone on regardless. People here are resilient and do not listen to the radio or watch the news on TV, so they don't live in fear of anything.



“ THE TIDES COME AND GO FAST, MAKING THIS PLACE MAGICAL AND EVER-CHANGING. WITH NO REEFS OR BOATS TO AVOID. IT'S A NICE SPOT FOR BEGINNERS ”



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“ VISITORS SEEING THE ENERGY AND STOKE OF KITERS COMING OFF THE WATER CAN'T RESIST GIVING IT A GO ”


We had forgotten what life without masks was like and how good socialising felt, but we settled back into it pretty quickly!

The openness of Zanzibar was a boon for tourism, especially for digital nomads who were able to work from this relaxed, tropical paradise while sipping on a coconut and watching the colourful kites sail through

the sky. Visitors seeing the energy and stoke of kites coming off the water can't resist giving it a go, and as we all know, one taste is all it takes to start the addiction!

Now that season is in full swing, our kite school and spot in Jambiani is getting busier. We teach on Cabrinha kites and are lucky to have the incredible gear and support from Shinnworld. We've got a dream team of instructors here with locals and foreigners, teaching in Polish, German, French, and English. When we're not teaching, we ride

together and challenge each other to progress. On the high tides, we chase waves or send it old-school on our twin tips. On a low tide, it's all about freestyle. It's not always windy, of course! On the no wind days, or when we're not working, we can visit the dolphins or turtles snorkelling or diving; the centre is located right next to our school. There's cliff diving, the monkey forest, spice farm, and a secret cave with a hidden watering hole, endless activities to entertain on a holiday or day off! However, after a long day of teaching, the best place to be is often on a hammock reading a book.



" IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A BETTER LIFE FOR OURSELVES. IT'S THE LIFE WE ALWAYS DREAMED OF, AND IT'S FINALLY OUR REALITY. "

We came to Zanzibar nearly a year ago, and we didn't know what to expect. We were always busy at the beginning, running the kite school and diving centre. There was no time for anything but working to get everything running efficiently. Now, though, we have fallen into a nice schedule with a great team of trusted people around us.

The longer we're here, the more we've come to love this place! We live on the beach with a view of our spot. We can go kiting straight from our balcony! It's hard to imagine a better life for ourselves. It's the life we always dreamed of, and it's finally our reality. If you ever want to see and experience this beautiful life, come visit us in paradise!

WORDS & PHOTOS MATT GEORGES

TECH FOCUS

F-ONE BANDIT XV

Q&A with Raphael Salles

One of the most iconic kites ever made, the F-ONE BANDIT, has reached its 15th birthday. The new BANDIT XV has just been announced, and we've got the inside scoop!



Raphael, thanks for joining us. What an exciting launch and a special moment for your team. Wow, 15 years of the BANDIT - congratulations! From the very first version to the exciting new release, how much has changed?

Yes, it is quite incredible that it's been such a long time, and it went by so fast! The original Delta C shape patent is still used in the BANDIT XV, and this patent is the only design patent still valid today in the kite world. There are a lot of patents on accessories but not on pure kite design. A lot has changed since the V1 in 2007. We were able to follow every trend in our sport with the BANDIT and even turn it into two models with an S series for strapless and surfing. Its main purpose has been to follow our customer's needs. Every year we were able to improve the BANDIT by quite a lot, so 15 improvements have led to quite a change between the first version and the one today.

What was the inspiration behind the original BANDIT design?

The wind range has always been our main goal because, in south France, the wind can be so gusty and changes force during your session. You can start in 20 knots and end your session in 30 knots. The goal of the Delta design was to offer maximum stability with full depower, and it appears to be perfect with the auto relaunch. Still, today the wind range is an important part of our goals.

We see you've gone full western with the release of the BANDIT XV! Where does the name come from?

It was nice to go back to the western universe and the "Most Wanted" theme. It's so difficult to choose a name, but I guess this kite model was there to create a hold up on the kite market, and it did! So the BANDIT name has been fitting well!



" 15 IMPROVEMENTS HAVE LED TO QUITE A CHANGE BETWEEN THE FIRST VERSION AND THE ONE TODAY. "





" WE LISTEN TO ALL COMMENTS FROM CUSTOMERS TO PRO RIDERS AND ADJUST OUR OBJECTIVES EACH SEASON. "

What were the design goals for the new BANDIT XV? Can you tell us a bit more about what features we can look forward to?

The goals for the BANDIT XV were to improve ease of use and try to maximise comfort and performance in all wind ranges. You know you have a kite that is working well if it flies not only in 5 knots but also in 15 knots. The easiness and bar feeling that make you a better pilot and kitesurfer are the key. You are already a better pilot with better sensations only a few minutes after using the BANDIT XV. You can have success with tricks that you didn't think you could land! The stability while flying or on the beach has also improved, so you feel more confident and don't realise that the wind has been as gusty as it truly is.

We have given more importance to the big air discipline as well, with higher jumps and improved kite loops.

The changes that are visible are the double vertical panel on the trailing edge that offers a better load distribution of the tension and allows for better control of the profile on the trailing edge of the kite. On the BANDIT XV, we have changed the trailing edge reinforcement as well to a more clean profile. We have adjusted the profile to these new features and worked on leading-edge diameter and fine-tuning the bridles. It's fantastic every year to work on a design that you know so well.

It is known across the kiting community that BANDIT riders are fiercely loyal! How has feedback from the consumers helped drive the design of this kite?

Our customers are quite loyal, and we sometimes learn more from riders who do not like the BANDIT than from those who love it. We listen to all comments from customers to pro riders and adjust our objectives each season.

What does it look like behind the scenes of putting together a kite like this? How many people are involved in getting this product to market?

We are four people behind the scenes now; Robert, our kite designer, and Mika, who has been my partner in testing since the 1st model, so 15 years together! For two years now, Paul Serin has also been helping us with testing. It takes about 80 prototypes and an entire year process with many, many days on the water in all kinds of conditions to reach the final version.

" YOU HAVE TO REALLY KNOW HOW EACH OF THE PREVIOUS PROTOTYPES FEELS TO UNDERSTAND THE NEXT ONES AND OUR GOALS. "



How important was the feedback from your team riders in the final tuning of this kite?

When you do 35 prototypes of the 9m before starting with the other sizes, only the test team and I can test and give feedback. Each prototype is just a step to the next one and not the final design. You have to really know how each of the previous prototypes feels to understand the next ones and our goals. When it is final, then we can get feedback from our different team riders and know if we were right or not. This year the feedback from Liam in the big air discipline has been really good!

Alongside the launch of the BANDIT XV is the BANDIT S3, which is the surf and strapless freestyle offshoot of the original. What drove the decision to create a separate surf model?

After so many years, it was more and more difficult to satisfy all our riders and customers, so we felt the need to have a wave riding model, still with the fantastic wide range of use of the BANDIT. Jumping high and doing a kite loop or cruising was taking the kite further away from the handling and light feeling needed for a wave riding kite. So we have decided to have two ranges. The S is using the Delta C shape and many aspects of the original BANDIT. The smaller BANDIT sizes (4, 5, 6, and 7m) were already wave oriented for quite a while, so it was natural and logical to expand those designs into the bigger sizes for more of a surf feel. This year, the BANDIT S3 goes up to 11m, and Mitu was quite happy when he was testing the kite during the shoot!

What's new with the BANDIT S3? Tell us a bit more about the new features!

On the BANDIT S3, we have followed the same goals for improved stability because when you ride in waves or strapless, you need a lot of control. Wind range is also essential because you mainly ride in storms in Europe. The pull from the S seems to disappear during your surf, so it gives you a lot of freedom to edge and do your carves and turns. The handling of the kite, while depowered with not much tension on the back lines, is better so you can steer it without any pulling. It's important in onshore conditions where you always need your kite to follow your turns.

Taking a look across the industry, it's clear that lighter is the new black! There's noticeably less dacron on the latest models. Has this been done intentionally to reduce weight? How does this affect the characteristics of the kite?

Weight has always been a priority, and the BANDIT is already quite light, even lighter than some of the new models of kites out there with lightweight, expensive materials. In the past 15 years, we have reduced the leading edge diameter to the minimum to reduce weight and optimise every reinforcement. For the past few years, we use three different materials, the Tecno Force 52gr canopy, a 155gr Dacron, and a 130gr Dacron as well. This allows us to have the best combination of material across the kite.

We have done some testing with the new ultra-light materials, but as they are making the kite two times more expensive, we still need to determine if it makes the kite two times better or not!

" WE HAVE DONE SOME TESTING WITH THE NEW ULTRA-LIGHT MATERIALS, BUT AS THEY ARE MAKING THE KITE TWO TIMES MORE EXPENSIVE "



" MY ROLE IS TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND BE SURE THAT F-ONE WILL STILL BE A LEADING COMPANY. "

Looking back at 15 years of an impressive kite design that has seen incredible success in the industry, how does it feel to have hit this milestone?

With the recent change in our sport and wing foiling exploding suddenly, and of course, the Covid pandemic, there is not much time to look back on the past! My role is to look to the future and be sure that F-ONE will still be a leading company. Our past has shown how far we have come and what we have achieved.

By speaking with some of our customers, we know some had the feeling that our recent success in the wing market might pull us back a bit from the kite market. With the launch of the BANDIT XV and S3, and their performance, we have shown that our energy and motivation is still the same.

The team at the office is doing incredible work to manage the kite and wing product lines, and one thing we could not plan is another anniversary: This summer, it will be my 25th year of kitesurfing.

Yes, I'm kitesurfing since August 1996!

Thank you for all the behind the scenes insights on the BANDIT, Raphael!

Thank you so much, Crystal!

TECH FOCUS

CRAZYFLY TERTEX MATERIAL

Is there anything that excites quite like innovative materials? For their 2022 lineup, CrazyFly has introduced TerTex, a brand new material that takes their European made kites up a notch! Find out what the hype is about in this Tech Focus!





“ LIGHTER KITES MOVE FASTER THROUGH THE AIR, ARE EASIER TO RELAUNCH, AND TURN QUICKER. ”

With our never-ending drive to make better kites, we are proud to introduce TerTex. TerTex is a brand new material used on all 2022 CrazyFly kites. It is two times stronger than our Triplex triple ripstop and forty percent lighter than our Dacron material.

TerTex is applied in strategic areas of the kite to save weight while maintaining a rigid and durable frame. Lighter kites move faster through the air, are easier to relaunch, and turn quicker. Our designers found TerTex an excellent replacement for Dacron, perfectly suitable for all struts, wingtips of the canopy, and canopy reinforcement over the central strut.

At first glance, you can see that TerTex has a special, ultra-resistant coating. This coating increases the strength, reduces the stretch of the material, and offers better UV resistance, prolonging the material lifespan. It also increases the wind range, as low-end performance improves with the kite able to fly in lighter winds.



AMAZE

AMBIENT SEA CAPSULE



ESCAPE THE ORDINARY



" THESE ASPECTS WERE ALL IMPROVED, WHILE THE HANGTIME AND LIFT THAT WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF REMAINS UNTOUCHED! "



Let's take a look at the 2022 Hyper, the redesigned king of the air featuring our new TerTex material. The 2022 Hyper enters a new age, with reduced weight and an improvement in strength and performance. The 2022 Hyper 12m kite is 0.3 kg lighter than the 2021 version.

Along with the weight reduction, the bridle was redesigned to find the best possible performance, taking full advantage of the weight savings. The bar pressure has been reduced, resulting in a much more fluid feel. Reduced panels lead to a more refined canopy. Leading edge seam reinforcements have been moved inside of the leading edge for increased strength and a cleaner closing seam. These aspects were all improved, while the hangtime and lift that we can't get enough of remains untouched!

Needless to say, TerTex is an exciting addition to 2022 CrazyFly kites!



WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

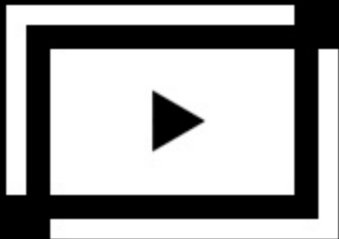
RIDERS SIMON BURNER AND DAVID TONIQUAN
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS

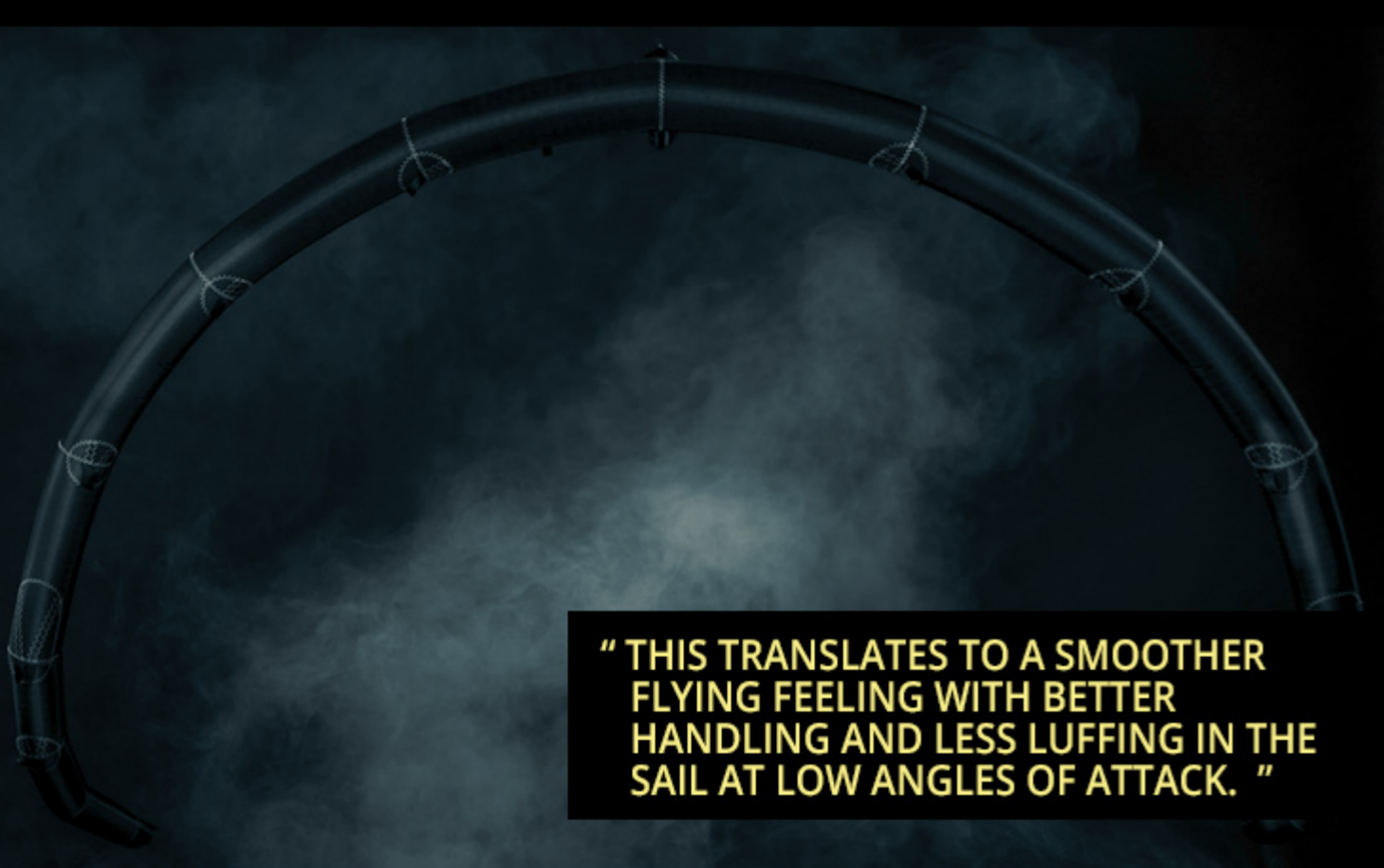
TECH FOCUS

OZONE ALPHA V2

Q&A with Rob Whittall,
Product Designer and Cofounder

The Ozone Alpha has been a single strut star in the Ozone lineup since it first arrived in 2019. Arriving in May, the Ozone Alpha V2 comes packed with new features. We caught up with designer Rob Whittall to find out more about it!





" THIS TRANSLATES TO A SMOOTHER FLYING FEELING WITH BETTER HANDLING AND LESS LUFFING IN THE SAIL AT LOW ANGLES OF ATTACK. "

Rob, can you give us the rundown on what's new with the Ozone Alpha V2?

The Alpha V2 has had a comprehensive redesign. The one strut design has proven to be a winner, but we wanted to take it to the next level. The biggest tech innovation is the Continuous Curve Leading Edge combined with the Transverse Sail Shaping.

Tell us more about the Continuous Curve Leading Edge!

Instead of constructing the leading edge with straight segments and angled joints to make up an arc, we developed a new way of constructing the leading edge where each segment is curved instead of straight! How does this impact the performance of the kite? It's easy to understand; the kite has an arced shape, and constructing that arc with curves as opposed to straight lines means that the leading edge to sail load distribution is smoother and more uniform. This translates to a smoother flying feeling with better handling and less luffing in the sail at low angles of attack.



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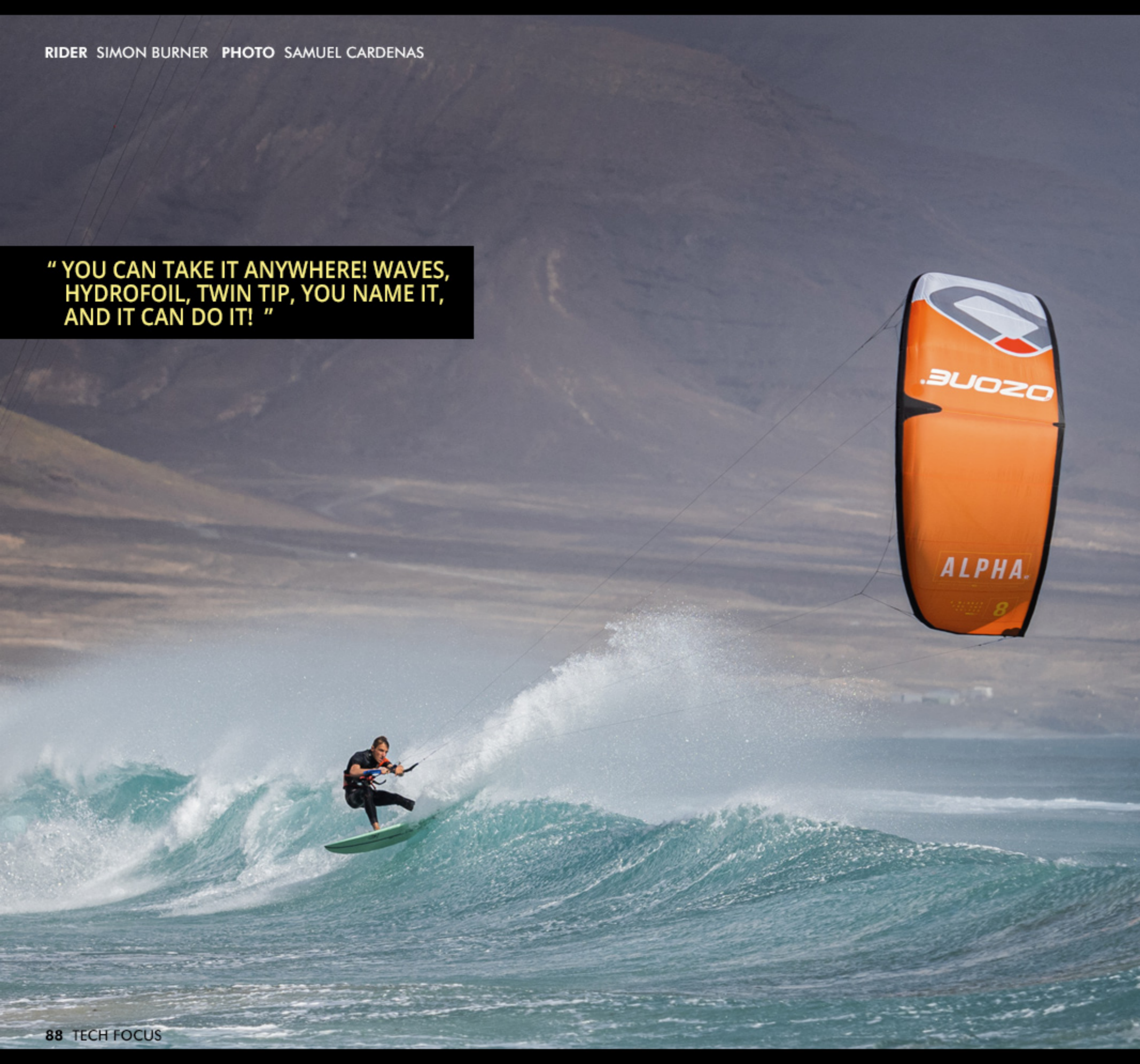
The versatile all-terrain Spirit is a closed-cell foil kite, making it a ride-everywhere solution that offers easy handling, comfort, performance, and stability at low-wind as well as in strong wind conditions.

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" YOU CAN TAKE IT ANYWHERE! WAVES, HYDROFOIL, TWIN TIP, YOU NAME IT, AND IT CAN DO IT! "



What is Transverse Sail Shaping?

The fundamentals are that the sail is made from flat cloth cut and stitched into a 3D shape. The majority of that shape is at the front of the sail, where the airfoil section is deepest. The extra span wise cut allows the opportunity to improve the 3D shape of the sail in the area so that the upper surface can be formed more accurately.

Single strut kites are known for hydrofoiling and light wind performance. Is this the main function of the Alpha V2?

Yes and no! It's a good all-around kite that is light and simple. You can take it anywhere! Waves, hydrofoil, twin tip, you name it, and it can do it!

What style of rider was this kite designed for?

For riders that like simplicity with the tech behind it! It's a wicked all-around kite that is easy to fly, and it has surprising performance across a wide range of rider styles.

Any last words on the new Ozone Alpha V2?

The feedback on this kite so far has been excellent! We don't do BS at Ozone, no hype, just the real deal! Riders are loving the Alpha V2, which is always our goal.

THE INTERVIEW

JO CIASTULA

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

If you've ever watched the GKA World Tour, you'll recognise this face and voice! From pro kiteboarding to judging, commentating, and event management, Jen Tyler and Jo Ciastula had loads to talk about; past, present and future – and we've got it all, exclusively on IKSURFMAG!



" MY PARENTS HAVE HELPED ME PURSUE MY DREAMS AND LET ME FIND MY WAY, WITH THE OCCASIONAL REALITY CHECK! "

PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



Jo, we're stoked to feature you and your massive range of talents in 'The Interview'! What was it like growing up in Tarifa in the Ciastula household, and how did you initially get into kiteboarding?

Thanks for the opportunity, Jen! It's great to be here, and please tell Rou a catch-up beer is way overdue! Hahaha, who said I grew up? The garage just got bigger! It's how it has been and always will be. I come from a surfing background where my father (Tad Ciastula) had a surf factory back in Newquay (Cornwall) called Vitamin Sea. My earliest memories are of being in my cot in between the surf racks of the surf shop and the sound and smells of the surfing world. From a young age, my parents have helped me pursue my dreams and let me find my way, with the occasional reality check! I'm lucky to have followed in their footsteps in the same industry but proud to have taken my own path as well. Nothing beats an early sunrise surf with my dad and tostadas at the beach with the family!

We moved to Tarifa, Spain, when I was six, and in 1999, kiteboarding came on to the scene as the Red Bull Sky Ride came to town, including Flash Austin, Robby Naish, Jaime Herraiz, Mark Shinn. With Tarifa being more popular with wind than waves, I was hooked and haven't stopped since!

Anyone that watches event live streams and recaps knows your face and voice! How did you get into commentating?

Boogie looppooooooooo, hahaha! Well, I kind of fell into it, to be honest. I have always been a big talker, sorry mum! A big part of my kiteboarding career was doing the Brand Meetings and product presentations back in the day.



" I LOVE THEM ALL AND FEEL LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SHOW UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. "

As Tour Manager for the initial years of the GKA, I would do the presentations and prize giving, and I enjoyed that.

During an event in Brazil a few years back, we needed another person on the mic with Jim Gaunt (Media Manager of the tour back then), and I jumped in. From the very first minute, I knew this was for me! I'm fortunate to have a lot of history in the sport, know all the guys and girls and love having the opportunity to give everyone the hype and banter they deserve. I hope you enjoy it!

You started your kiteboarding career with freestyle, judging strapless and have recently started commentating at Red Bull King of the Air. Which of these kiting disciplines would you say is the main crowd pleaser and why?

Every discipline has its followers and its stars. I wouldn't say any discipline is more of a crowd-pleaser to another. It is the personalities and the people on and off the water that put the real show on! I will never forget what Svein Rasmussen (Starboard and Airush) said to me back in the Airush days:

"A champion is that person that is both an ambassador on and off the water".

Take Jesse Richman, for example; he is the definition of stoke and hype; it's riders like him that make the King of the Air a show of its own. Airton Cozzolino from the strapless side is humble, but as soon as he hits the water, all you think to yourself is: "How does he do that?" In freestyle, watch Mikaili Sol or Liam Whaley; smooth, controlled style and ease. Pick your poison. I love them all and feel lucky to be able to enjoy the show up close and personal.



The GKA is back! With the first event of the 2021 season underway in Tarifa, the stoke levels must have been through the roof! So how does it feel to be back in action?

As James Carew would say, "AHHHHHHHH!" It is great to be back, and registration day was like a family reunion. Tarifa has a special place on the tour as it was its birthplace. So, to have everyone here, in my hometown, and to experience the competition vibes was a high moment for the memory banks, that's for sure!

" TARIFA HAS A SPECIAL PLACE ON THE TOUR AS IT WAS ITS BIRTHPLACE. "

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Rider: Arthur Guillebert
Picture: Patrick Schneider

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Things are a bit different this year; if Liam Whaley having to pull out of the event due to testing positive for COVID-19, is any indication!

What have been the main differences in recent events compared to the distant normalcy of 2019?

Different is a good word! They say to reinvent yourself is to survive, overcome hurdles and progress with that knowledge to a new beginning. I always try to take the positive from a negative situation. It's been challenging, but what has stood out the most for me has been the team effort to adapt to the 'new normal.' Online has become a new avenue due to the past season with events like the GKA Distance Battle, relaunching this season alongside online competition formats and the GKA News Show. Everyone has had to understand and overcome obstacles due to the pandemic; all I can say is, thank you!

How did the first event go? We saw wind conditions that caused absolute chaos in the freestyle competition. How did the GKA adapt the event to deal with Tarifa's powerful Levante winds?

Old-school 50-knot Levante blew the competition cobwebs off, that's for sure! No doubt it was a surprise for everyone, but in the end, we are looking for the complete all-around rider in the world, and everyone stepped up to the challenge with no fear. Furthermore, the new mixed format allowed the competition to adapt to the conditions introduced successfully in the strapless discipline in the past, ensuring riders could express themselves on the water, stay safe and mix it up.



“ NO DOUBT IT WAS A SURPRISE FOR EVERYONE, BUT IN THE END, WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE COMPLETE ALL-AROUND RIDER IN THE WORLD ”





Overall, how do you think the field of riders did in this event? Did they - as you would say - produce the goods?!

Absolutely! They went for it with no fear and full-on. I mean, it was windy as f... and I had sand in places I didn't know existed for weeks to come after being down on the beach! The athletes showcased what it means to adapt and overcome and had a lot of fun on and off the water, pure Tarifa style!

“ THE ATHLETES SHOWCASED WHAT IT MEANS TO ADAPT AND OVERCOME ”



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" I LOVE THE CHALLENGE, ENJOY THE RIDE, AND CAN'T WAIT FOR MORE. "

Tell us about The GKA News Show; how did you come up with that idea?

Since the pandemic started, online events, podcasts, etc., have become more relevant. The idea is a laid-back chat, where we talk about what is going on in the kiteboarding world, from the tour to the industry to the players—looking forward to evolving the concept and always up for input from anyone out there.

You previously managed the GKA event; what did that role entail, and what was the experience like, good or bad?

Organising an event is a passionate adventure. It's insane to see the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. People don't realise the hours it takes to make an event happen, be successful and come back the following season. From permits, branding, collaborations, crew, budgets, political obligations...

I love the challenge, enjoy the ride, and can't wait for more. My respect and thanks to all event organisers out there; I feel you!

What does the organisational side of the GKA look like today?

The GKA is a family and, since the beginning, has been a team effort of key core members. Each year the family grows, and it's great to be a part of the progression of the competition side of the sport.



" I'M VERY GLAD TO CALL MY WORK MY PASSION AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL DIGITALLY OR IN PERSON AT THE EVENTS TO COME. "

Leading the way is a combination of members from different departments of the industry worldwide, people with a long history in the sport and talented individuals with a passion for kiteboarding. Our Secretary-General is Jörgen Vogt, and Tour Manager Tom Hartmann always keeps us in check and makes sure we are smooth sailing into a better event calendar each year.

What's coming up in 2021 for Jo Ciastula?

2021 has started well with events on the rise with the GKA Kite World Tour, KOTA happening at the end of the year, a podcast with Duotone called "Inside the World of Duotone", and travelling becoming part of the routine again! I'm very glad to call my work my passion and look forward to seeing you all digitally or in person at the events to come. Stay salty and see you on the water or for a cold one!

Thanks, Jo! It's been great catching up!

Thanks, Jen! See you soon!



FORTALEZA



MANCORA



CABARETE



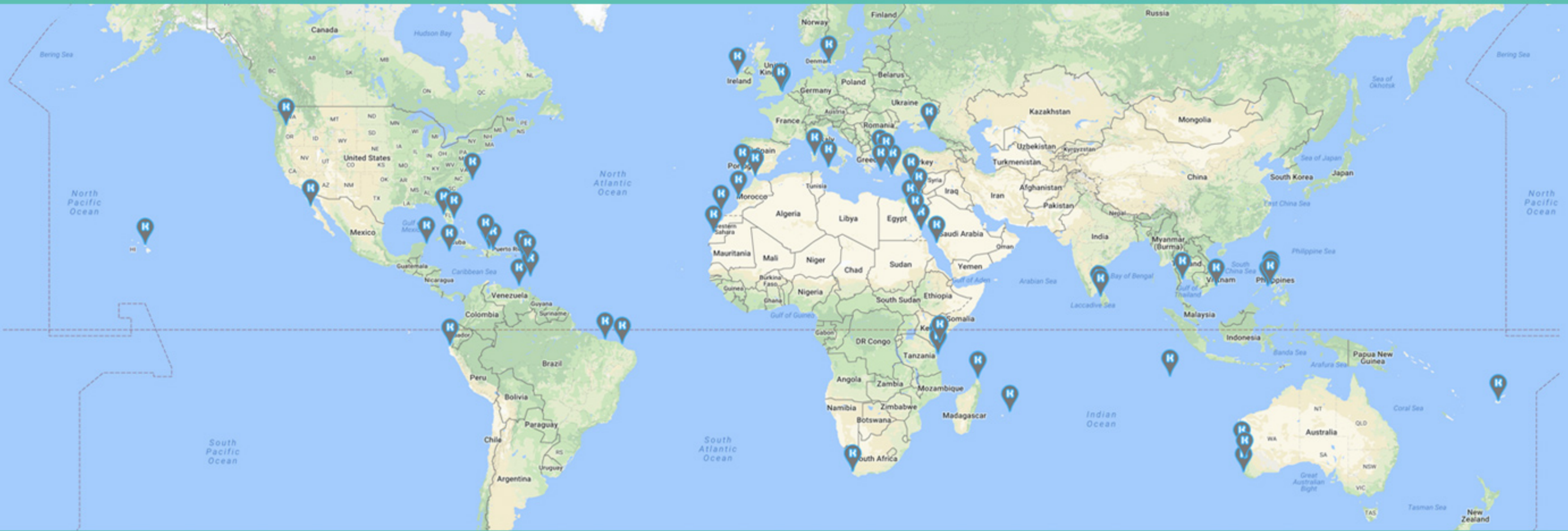
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THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
MIRIAM JOANNA

Brexit hasn't stopped us yet!
More gear is trickling in at the new IKSURFMAG Test Centre at Loop Watersports in Littlehampton! Down in the Southern Hemisphere, we've added a 'satellite test team' in South Africa for more tests in a wider variety of conditions. This issue, we've got gear from North, Lieuwe, and FLYSURFER on test! Check it out!

KITES

FLYSURFER Boost

BOARDS

North Focus 2021

North Sense 2021

Lieuwe Shotgun

Lieuwe Oceana



BRAND FLYSURFER

MODEL BOOST

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2021



“ THE BOOST IS A COMPLETELY TRUSTWORTHY, COMFORTABLE RIDE WITH EXCEPTIONAL RELAUNCHING ABILITIES. ”



AT A GLANCE

The age-old saying goes, don't change a winning formula. Although I have seen this classic phrase abused in every aspect, you can absolutely apply it to great kite gear, and rightfully so! With FLYSURFER's commitment to only release new products when the potential to improve the design calls for it, we're always excited when news of a new release arrives. The FLYSURFER Boost, in its 4th iteration, is as beautiful as it is simple.

The FLYSURFER Boost is the second model of LEI kite to come from this German brand, which has a paragliding background and is known for its foil kites. At first glance, the new Boost shows that they are more than capable of designing a successful LEI kite. With a couple of years and several changes between the 3rd version and the 4th, it's clear to see that a lot of thought and testing went into the new release.

The five-strut kite takes aim at the freeride and progression market, said to have reliable relaunch, accessible power, and great upwind performance. These are all quintessential in a progression-friendly kite, that's for sure! FLYSURFER has aimed to build a kite that is simply fun to ride.

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BRAND NORTH
SIZE 139 X 42CM

MODEL FOCUS
YEAR 2021

AT A GLANCE

For 2021, North has combined the carbon version and the wood core versions of the Focus into one board. Compared to the 2020 versions, the tips of the board has been squared off more, which means that the board is more durable, as the sharper tips catch more when moved around. The construction of the board has the well-balanced Paulownia wood core that is found in all North Boards.

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"A FUN BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE FOIL BOARD THAT OFFERS GREAT FEEDBACK AND EARLY LIFT."



BRAND NORTH MODEL SENSE
YEAR 2021

AT A GLANCE

It's recently been announced that there will be two medals at the Olympics for males and females, instead of the single medal for a mixed relay. This is great news for the sport, and from this, we'll almost certainly see a large uptake in foiling.



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" FROM
ADVANCED
RIDERS TO
BEGINNERS
LOOKING TO
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SHOTGUN WILL
SEND YOU TO
NEW LEVELS! "



BRAND LIEUWE MODEL SHOTGUN
SIZE 138

AT A GLANCE

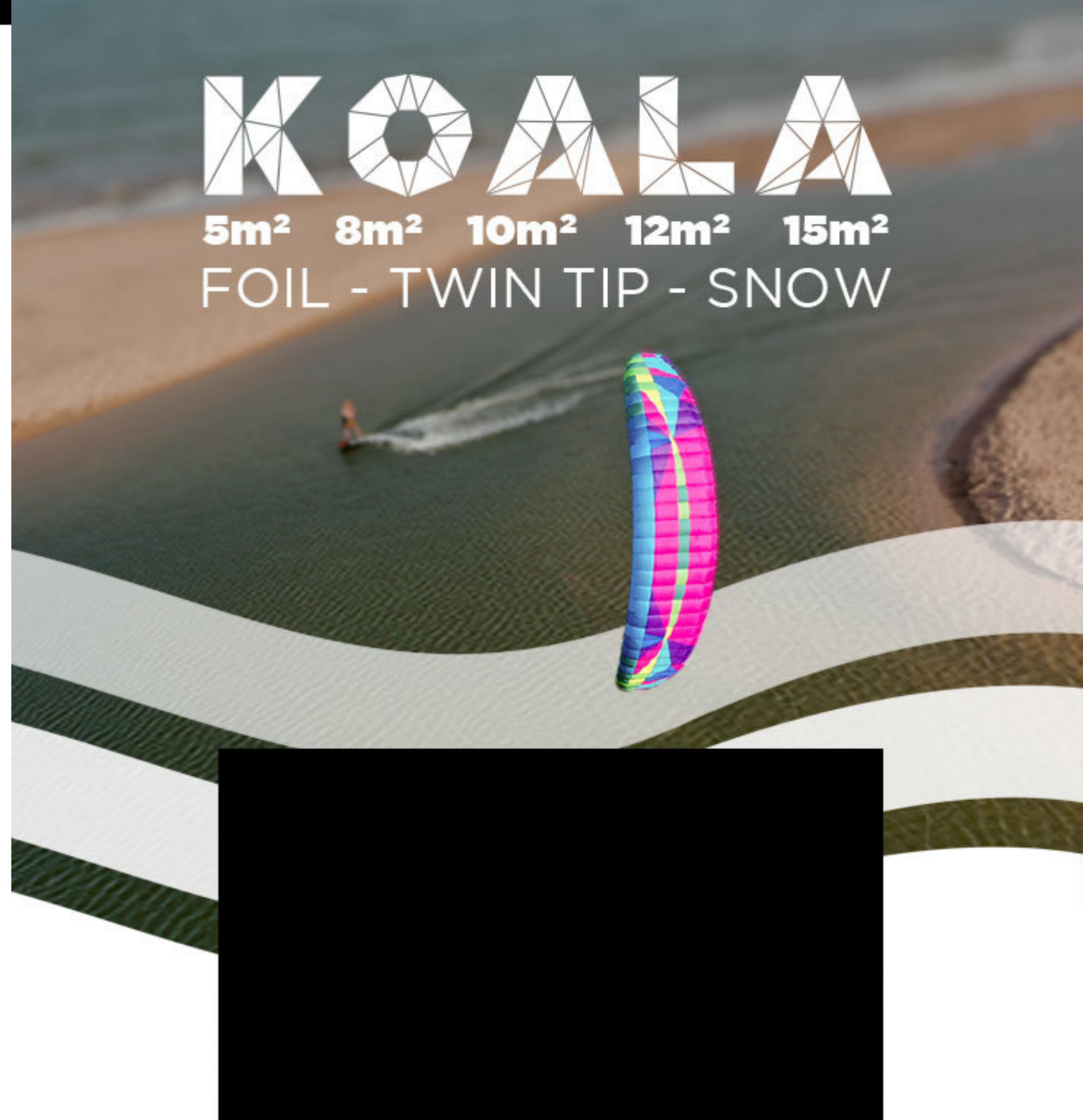
The Lieuwe team often refers to the Shotgun as "the board that was perfected before its time". Imagine the joy of creating something only to find out you did perfectly on the first try! Well, maybe not the first edition for Lieuwe, but pretty damn close. After a few years of tweaking, Lieuwe customers insisted that no more changes be made to what they see as a flawless design!

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FREESTYLE
MACHINE, THIS
IS THE BOARD
FOR YOU! "



BRAND LIEUWE MODEL OCEANA
SIZE 137

AT A GLANCE

Lieuwe's Oceana features a stunning natural wood core that is visible throughout the board, with each board displaying its own unique features. Thanks, Mother Nature! If that doesn't have you falling in love at first sight, the base features an enchanting mermaid artwork, and her gaze had us falling over our feet. Good thing she'll be facing the ocean when we're on the water; we wouldn't be able to handle the distraction mid loop or handle pass!

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SUMMER 2021



TEN REASONS

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THE NEW HOME FOR WINGS, FOILING, SUP AND SURF...

On The Fly

NORTH // BEHIND THE COVER

Our cover shot features a photo that knocked our socks off! Jesse Richman and photographer Brian Solano teamed up to conquer Jaws; Here's the story behind the shot!



BRIAN SOLANO: When Jesse asked me to shoot this Jaws session, I knew just who to call. I partnered with our friend and fellow kiter Nick Moran from GoFly Maui to fly above the waves in his R44 Clipper helicopter. With the doors off and Nick's expert piloting, we were 100 ft above the waves, giving me the perfect angle to line up Jesse, his kite, and one of the most powerful waves on the planet. I hope these photos captured the power, excitement, and energy I felt watching the world's best kiting the world's biggest waves from a courtside seat in the sky!

See more perspectives from Brian Solano on Instagram at [@BrianSolanoInc](https://www.instagram.com/BrianSolanoInc).

NORTH // BEHIND THE COVER

JESSE RICHMAN: "Why in the hell would anyone ever go out to Jaws," I thought, "what's the point?" The nine-year-old version of me had plastered upon his wall a giant poster of Laird Hamilton, carving through a beautiful bottom turn, topless on a colossal bomb at Jaws. It puzzled me, why would you do that? I loved surfing and sports, but what was the point of going out in life-threatening surf? Was Laird actually a moron? I wondered...

One day, there was a 'meet and greet' with Laird at Hi-Tech, the local surf shop, and I was going. I was ready to ask this big wave surfer my great philosophical question: Why do you do what you do? I knew my exact question; I knew how I would look when I asked it; I was ready and curious about how this big shot surfer would answer.

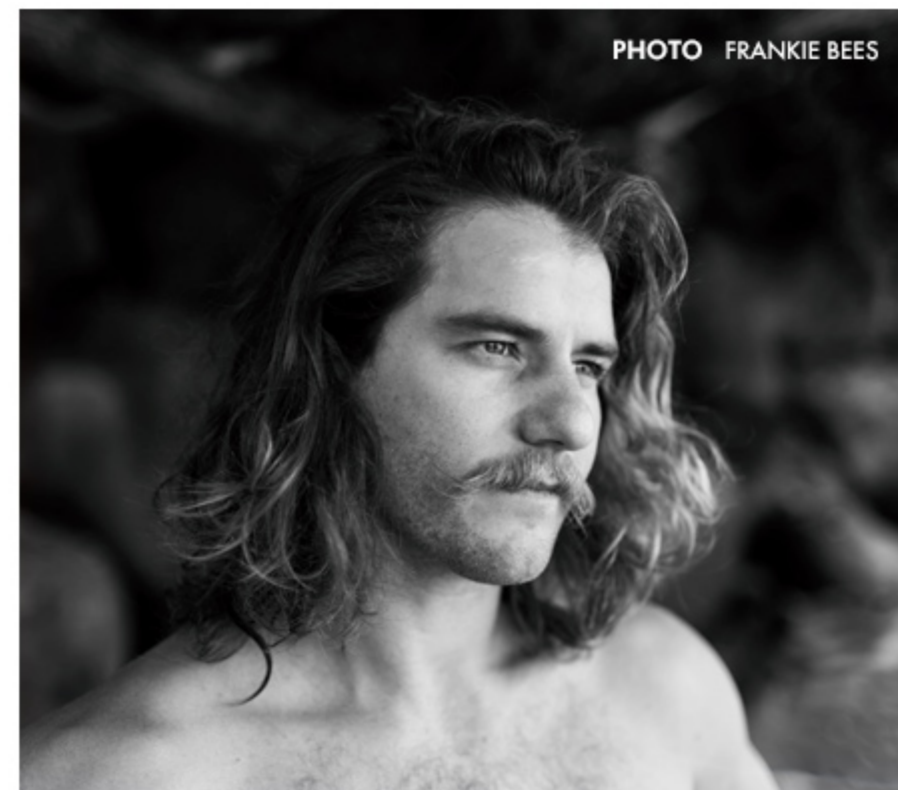
As I came to the front of the line, my heart began to race; my palms started to sweat. "Hey there," Laird looked at me, smiling. I looked back with a blank face and responded timidly, "hi." He asked my name; I wasn't sure what to do, but I did remember that "Jesse." In an effort to pull something interesting out of me, he asked if I was a surfer... "Actually, Kitesurfing is cooler," I said. He chuckled as he signed a copy of his latest DVD and jovially encouraged me to keep on flying my kite.

I walked away, totally stunned with my performance, or lack of one. How could I just freeze, unable to pose my deeply existential and life-defining question?! The very quandary that had been rattling in my brain so tirelessly. How would I ever know what the point of JAWS was?!

As time went on, my scepticism and perplexity about this earth-shattering and "death-defying" compulsion began to fade into the distance. It was also during this time that my kiteboarding career truly took off. I was immersed and entranced with my travels, exploring the world while competing on the World Tour. I formed a style; I dialled my training, saw foreign lands, and enjoyed a wildly rich and fast-paced introduction to adulthood and the wonders of the world. After several years of this game, I eventually faded out of the scene as I could feel myself being pulled back to my home on Maui. With this little isle as my home base, I couldn't help but tune into the Jaws craze that was in full swing. Interestingly, and without a second thought, it felt like a challenge that I was up for... and so, I trained for Jaws.

It was only during my training that I suddenly recalled my simple but deeply affected question that had plagued me for so long as a youth. Although I still had no idea 'what the point' of going out to Jaws was... I wanted to find out!

After careful consideration and what I felt to be a good amount of preparation, I finally found myself, on a wave, at Pe'ahi (Jaws)... I wasn't riding anywhere close to where I wished to be nor looking half as awesome as I'd hoped. Nevertheless, I was finally becoming intimately acquainted with Pe'ahi for the very first time. I gazed up at her fiery teeth as they came slamming down onto the water with a universe-shattering thunder.



Seeing her from this whole new angle, I finally began to understand the point...

Initially, the force that drew me out there stemmed from curiosity and then was subsequently fueled by ego. Riding Pe'ahi was the big thing, it was in my backyard, and all the biggest badasses were doing it. It was only after that first session that I started to understand that my training had just begun. This was not a beast that I could simply conquer once and for all on a perfect day; riding Pe'ahi was a way of life; she was an ever-changing monolith of beauty, the majesty of which would become a lifelong honour to dance with and refine the moves of. As she would shift, depending on the day, I would, in turn, learn to adapt to her moods and swells, a dynamic that has yet to become tiresome...in fact, I know it never will...

It was only after this revelation that I was able to answer my question, Why would anyone ever go out to Jaws?... Why not?!

On The Fly

FLYSURFER // FINDING SENSATION

From the creative minds of Johanna-Catharina Edin and Miriam Joanna comes a new video release that is sure to spark your senses. Their goal is to showcase kitesurfing from an athletic yet fashionable and artistic perspective, which speaks to a broader audience. Watch the video now, then turn the page for a glimpse inside the mind of the creator!



RIDER JOHANNA-CATHARINA EDIN
PHOTOS MIRIAM JOANNA



On The Fly

FLYSURFER // FINDING SENSATION

We headed into this project with a vision to showcase Catharina's true personality in-depth as an athlete and artist. Like a lot of creative ideas, visions aren't always fully thought through. We wanted to leave space for the creative process.



Parallel to writing out our idea for the film, Catharina was experiencing a "new feeling" of joy, as in taking a break from overthinking solutions of nailing certain manoeuvres and allowing herself to try something new such as winging and twin tipping in order to experience the feeling of success again, to find clarity. So we decided to follow the words: thinking too much and feeling too little.

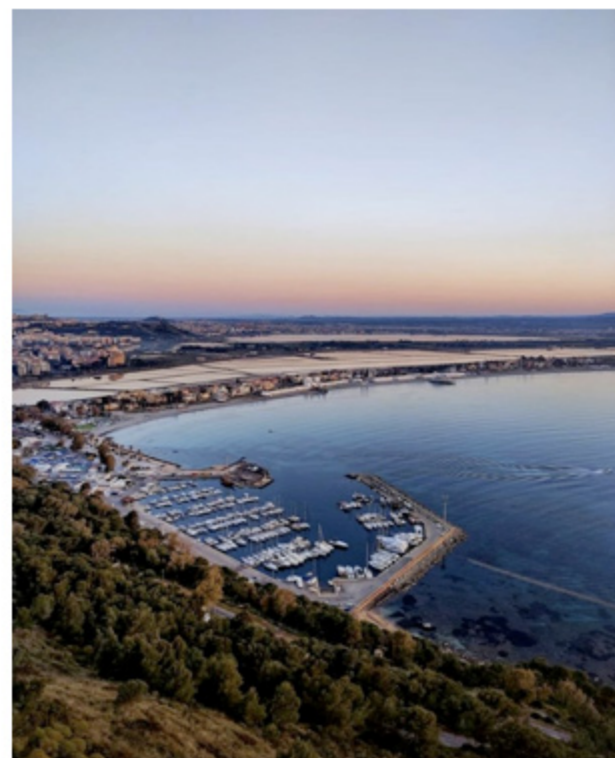
And that's exactly how we tackled this project! We felt inspired and just went for it, filming at different locations for several weeks. Then, a plot twist happened. I started to think too much, getting lost in my own thoughts, fogging up my own vision, unable to proceed with the footage due to a certain stage fright that was growing in my head. It took many attempts, breaks, conversations with different people, some more breaks and then finally Catta, who found the right words - due to her own experience as an artist - to ease my fear. She told me to do what I mostly do in life: just go for it.

I allowed myself to feel the fear and found peace in it. By putting my thoughts aside, I was finally able to proceed, and it all came together. We wanted to show a pretty raw portrait of Catta in an artistic way, and I think we did a pretty good job. To create and expose your creation is such a fragile thing. It can feel so intimidating yet incredibly freeing at the same time. Being true to yourself and your creative process is what I relate to the term feeling in the sentence, "We think too much and feel too little". It is something I remind myself of over and over again because this is the place where inspiration and creativity ignites.

-Miriam Joanna

SARDINIA GRAND SLAM // MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

If the desperate wait for the next season of Netflix's Drive to Survive hasn't inspired you to start following kitefoil racing yet, perhaps the promise of kites - actual kites! - competing for Olympic Gold Medals just might! The Sardinia Grand Slam team is getting fired up for their upcoming event in Cagliari from October 6-10, 2021. We caught up with Sergio Loi to find out what first-time viewers can expect when tuning in to this event!



Evolution, constant experimentation, and the pursuit of speed: the Sardinia Grand Slam is a mix of technology applied to sail and extreme performances. The lifespan of the match races is 12 to 15 minutes per, and viewers will be watching with bated breath. Thanks to a race area course located near the shoreline, fans are close to the action. The finishing line will be directed towards the beach to favour the view of the public.

The technical value of the event is guaranteed by the World Champion title up for grabs. Cagliari will welcome the best athletes on the international scale in view of the debut of kitefoil racing at the Olympic Games in Paris 2024.

Not to be underestimated is the strategic position of Cagliari, where summer is the longest season of the year. Cagliari is a beautiful city with lots of places to see and admire. During the summertime, Cagliari truly stands out and shows its true colours with beautiful attractions like the two towers of San Pancrazio and Elefante and the San Remy Bastion.

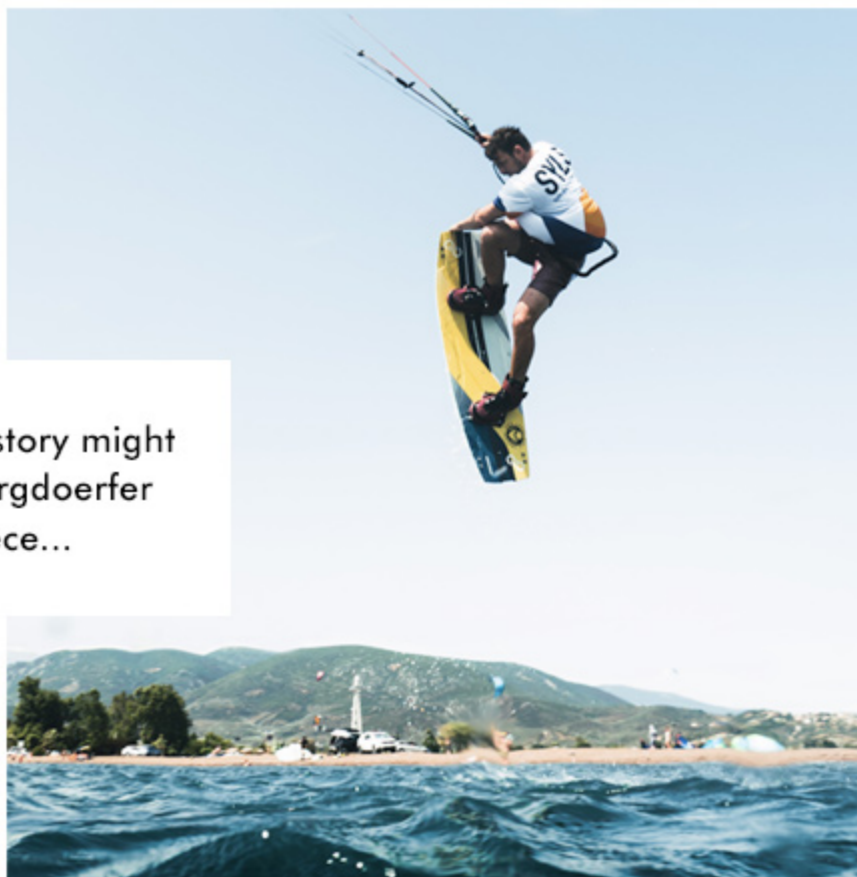
It might be time to book a trip to Italy! Learn more about the event at <http://www.sardiniagrandslam.com/>

ELEVEIGHT // GONE TO GREECE

We're all dreaming of our next kiting holiday, and this story might just be the inspiration we need to book a ticket! Jan Burgdoerfer takes us along on his adventure from Germany to Greece...

After not travelling for 16 months (for obvious reasons), the time had come to go to a warmer place to be able to fasten my boots and unhook to my heart's content. I know that I live a privileged life if a year and a half of not being on any plane can feel like a long time. Therefore, I am grateful, and I appreciate it every single day.

As soon as I finished my university exams, I was on a flight from Hamburg to Athens, with two weeks ahead in the land of Ouzo, Gyros and Souvlaki. On the advice of Franco Trensals, I was on my way to Surf Camp Raches, which would offer the best kiting conditions. The stoke was rising by the minute! The adventure began immediately after landing, travelling by public bus from Athens via Lamía to Raches. There, I set up camp at Nisi Glamping's campground. In fact, it was Franco's tent, who was so kind to leave it there so that I wouldn't have to sleep under the free sky.



RIDER JAN BURGDOERFER
PHOTO ARIS GIANNOUKOS

When I woke up the next morning, there was no wind. I am serious: no wind, zero knots, nothing, nada, just flat sea. After asking dozens of people around about the wind conditions, everybody answered completely relaxed that it's coming towards noon, just like every single day. At about 3 pm, the wind picked up, and I had my first freestyle session in Greece.

The owner of the Surf Camp, Vasilis, arranged for photographer Aris Giannoukos to shoot me riding in his new collection of SYLS shirts and lycra. We went straight into the water to capture how a perfect freestyle session in Greece looks! It is safe to say that

Aris and I came up with some great shots, which you can see in these photos.

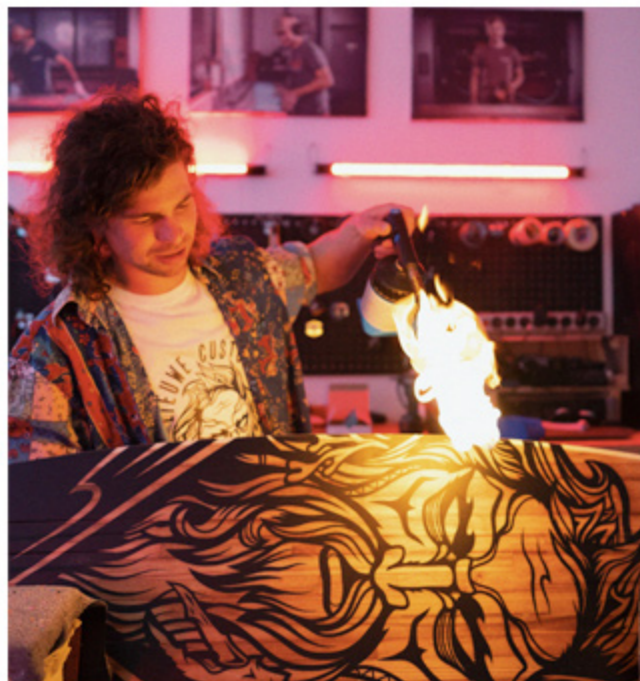
Swimming in the morning, fuelling up with bread from the local bakery for lunch, kiting in the afternoon, and dining and hanging out at the Surf Camp until late in the evening was my daily routine. After continuing that way for two weeks, it was time to go back to Germany. After a day in Athens, I got onto the plane. Not being on the water for a few days now and writing this paragraph makes me want to go back right away!

See you next year, Greece!

On The Fly

LIEUWE // GOING ALL IN

Since 2010, Lieuwe has been delivering top quality twin tips. With their latest campaign, they want to hear **your** story, and Erik van der Bijl tells us a bit more about what that means!



PHOTOS AURELIEN TOULAN

Kiting is more than just about the sport. It's what happens when you take amazing individuals and put them together on an adventure. This campaign is about the impact kiting has on our lives and is also a tribute to the higher powers that we experience when we hit the water. These powers transform our moods and make us feel deeply connected with nature. It's about those small moments of joy that, over time, can turn into memories of a lifetime. Now, we're calling all riders to go all in and make new memories together with one of our 50+ new designs or to tell their own story with a bespoke custom board.

Every board has a story. Getting a custom board is like getting a tattoo. It's super personal and gets 'under your skin'. Over the years, we've heard so many incredible reasons why people wish to have their designs created. Impactful life events, travel goals, or crazy obsessions. The weird shit that happened on their kite trips, the things they dream of. To some, kiting is just a hobby. To most of our customers, kiting means life. It's super cool to hear their stories and to see how our artists turn them into their dream designs. It's even better when we see how their custom boards lead to all kinds of new encounters and adventures, just because the uniqueness of their boards proved to be true conversation starters.

It's the reason why we're calling all riders to go all in and make new memories together.

And it's why we say, from now on:

We don't just make boards.

We craft stories.



I love the speed on a foil! I have been kitefoiling at a high level for four years, so when the chance to hold an official world record came up, I had to go for it. This challenge has been on my mind for several months, and I was lucky to have the supervision of a professional team during my preparation! On the day, I was physically, technically, and mentally ready for this event.

After completing the attempt, the best time for 500 metres per nautical mile was displayed on my GPS watch. I understood that I had broken the two records immediately! We just had to wait for confirmation from the cameras. That evening, the organizer called me to confirm my world records and congratulate me.

I was very happy, especially because the conditions were not easy. The wind was quite light, and I had to go beam reach, which is more technical than going downwind with a strong wind! In addition, I had to avoid the sandbanks. It was a true challenge, and I am really proud to have done these speeds in these types of conditions!



On The Fly

GIN / FLYMAX // DOUBLE WORLD RECORDS

Last month, Thomas Lombardo achieved something special by breaking two world records! First, the world speed record in a 500m distance on his Gin Spirit 8m, achieving an average speed of 35.81 knots. Similarly, he broke the world record in the nautical environment (1852m), with an average speed of 34.72 knots on the 10m Flymax Boom V2. Thomas shares his incredible experience!

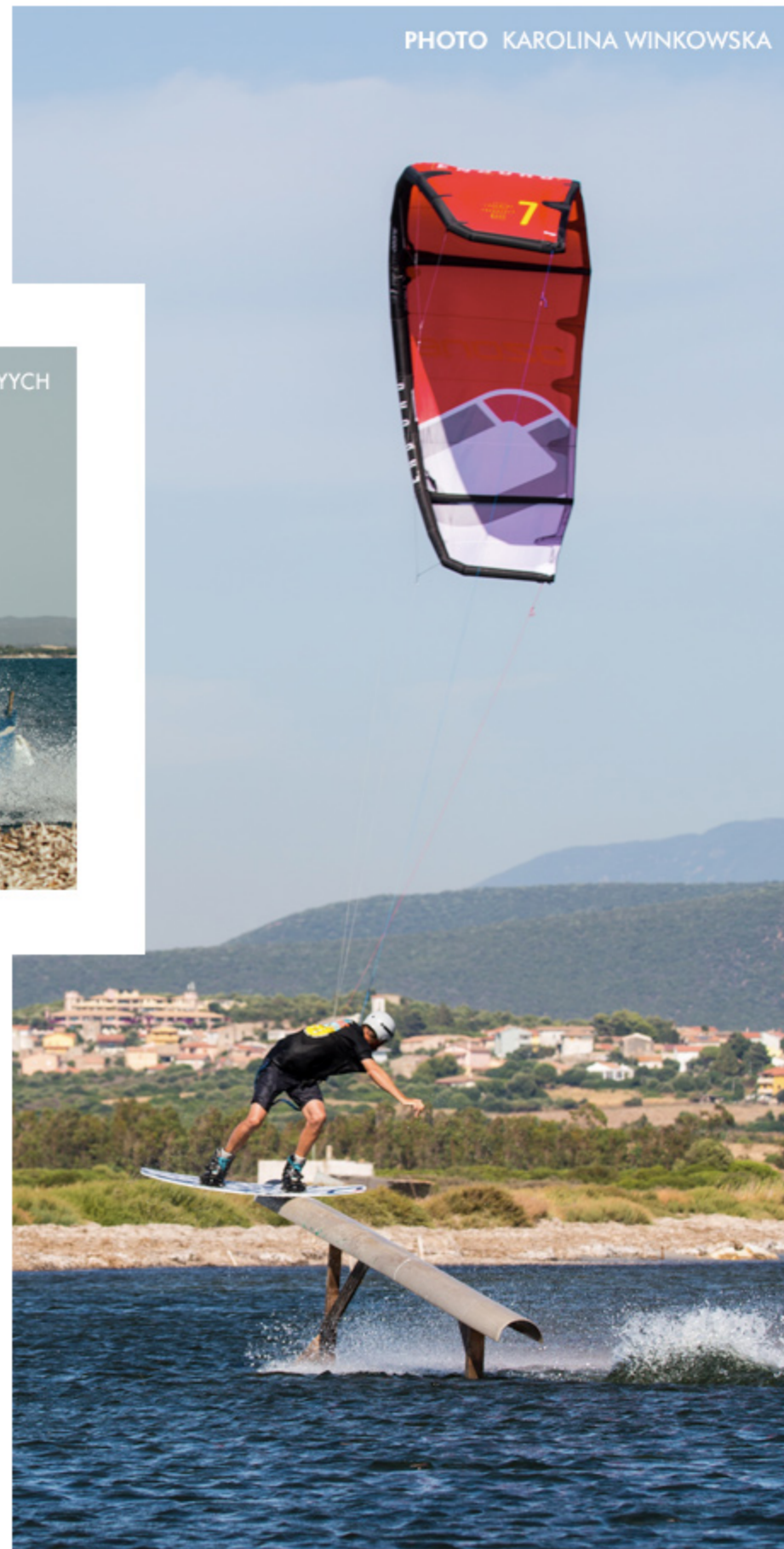
OZONE // SHORT LINE SHOTS

After 20 years of kiteboarding, how do you keep things interesting? Alexander Lewis-Hughes - a.k.a. Rowdy - tells us how he keeps it weird!

What was it like setting up the shot?

It was a little hard to grab an angle from outside of the water. In hindsight, it probably would have been better shot with a wider lens, but it was such a spur of the moment decision to hit the rail I hadn't planned it out.

I was actually foiling previously, and it just got super windy out of nowhere. I came in because I could barely hold the foil down and decided that maybe I could try to ride on a twin tip. At first, I thought there was no way I would get going on 5m lines, especially with only a 7m kite, but I guess having a 155cm board and a super-fast kite like the Ozone Enduro V3 made it work.



Short lines. By choice or just for the shot?

By choice. Usually just for fun. After 20 years, you need to keep trying weird things in order to stay interested, I think. They also have their benefits in some situations, like foiling, for example.

How?!

Easy, just take some lines, cut them down short, find a windy location and go!

Dive in a little deeper and check out the Rowdy interview with Laci Kobulsky on our website!

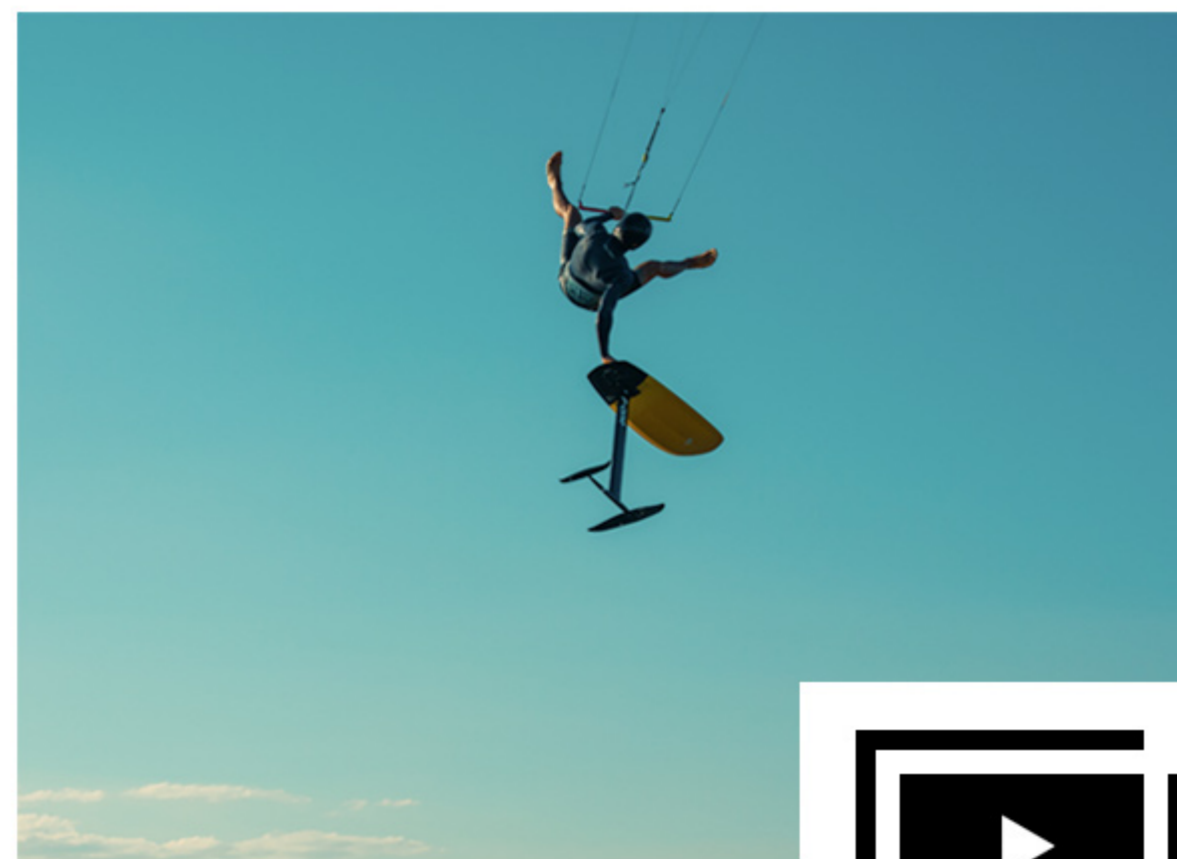
F - ONE // CHARLES BRODEL JOINS THE TEAM

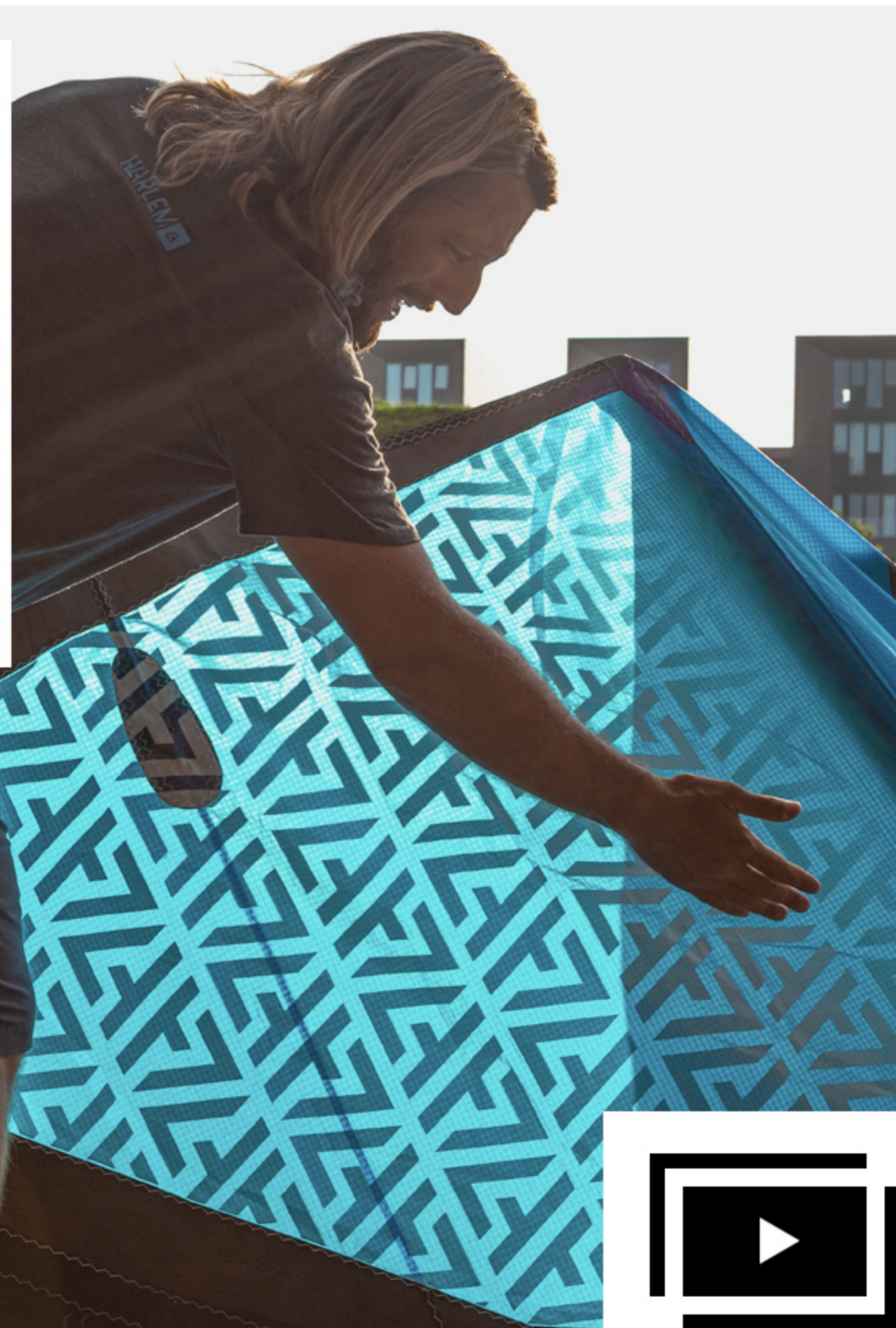
F-ONE welcomes freestyle kitefoil aficionado Charles Brodel to the team! Check out the video and read on as Charles fills us in on the big move.

I started freestyle kitefoil two years ago. Since then, my goal in every session has been to push the boundaries of the sport. I love being able to combine speed and freestyle, which gives me incredible sensations.

As I progressed, people took pleasure in watching what I was doing, and it also caught the attention of F-ONE, who gave me the chance to join their international team. We filmed my welcome video in Gruissan with a strong 40 knots of wind and in Port Camargue for lighter wind conditions.

Joining the F-ONE team is an incredible reward for me. It allows me to continue to push my limits but also to live great adventures alongside the crew!





HARLEM // WHAT'S NEW IN 2022

The kitesurfing industry's 'new normal' has forced a big shift to online. With Brand Meetings and annual Product Presentations going digital, kiting consumers have the opportunity to see what happens behind the scenes. Dutch brand Harlem Kitesurfing has released its entire 2022 collection on live stream, and you can watch to get a closer look at the entire lineup from the comfort of your own couch! When you're live, everything is on the table! You'll get a view of the team and personality behind the brand and take an unfiltered look at the equipment, which doesn't scare the crew over at Harlem! Their R&D Team started their careers repairing kites and took what they've learned about the ins and outs of how kites break to make products that can endure the elements.

Tune in to the complete live stream to learn more about the Go V5, Light V2, K.I.S.S. Bar, Spirit Foilboard, and the Harlem wing board lineup!





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RIDER NOË FONT
PHOTO RAMIRO GALLART

Leaving travel plans to the last minute is like rolling the dice. If you're willing to gamble, you might just get lucky. On a mission to get to the USA, with time running out and no clue how to get there, Ramiro, Katie and the crew struck gold with a trip to Turks & Caicos!

THE LUCKY STOP

WORDS RAMIRO GALLART AND KATIE POTTER

“ WE HAD ALL THE ESSENTIALS: A GROUP OF FRIENDS, CAMERA GEAR, AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE. ”



Getting a crew together is always a challenge, now more than ever. Getting them into the United States? Another level! Katie, Noè, Ewan, Ozzie, and I were in Europe and needed a bridge country to spend two weeks in before making our way to the United States. With the expectation that travel would become easier, we waited until the last minute to book our trip. A week before leaving, we were still clueless as to what we would do; the countries, continents, and destinations that were accessible would change from one day to the next.

I was having a drink in Tarifa with Ozzie when the phone rang. It was Kit Griffiths, a great friend and rider that lives in Turks & Caicos, where the wind had been firing. If we could get there, there would be two intense weeks of riding waiting for us. Exploring the islands on Kit's boat while based at the H2O Lifestyle Resort, one of the most luxurious kite accommodations that Providenciales has to offer, sounded like a plan I could get behind. It goes without saying that Ozzie and the rest of the crew were in! Now, we just needed to figure out how to get there.

After several hours of researching flight routes, one PCR test, two nights in hotels, three days of travelling, four passenger locator forms, and five taxis, we were finally in paradise. We had all the essentials: a group of friends, camera gear, and the most beautiful landscape. The wind conditions arrived just as we did! A hurricane passed through the Dominican Republic the day after we arrived in TCI, and we caught the edge of it, getting lucky with two weeks of solid freestyle wind with moody clouds above and pristine blue water below.



“ WE’RE PRETTY STOKED BY HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FROTHING FOR US TO BRING THIS IDEA BACK TO LIFE ”

Why were we here? Nowadays, Instagram and its 15-second clips have become standard content, and there has been a severe lack of proper videos produced. When a new video drops, it’s often a product video from a kite brand or another shreddit from a classic training destination like Brazil. We wanted to bring back videos the way they used to be; a core crew of

friends living the adventure together, shredding and filming each other. We’re pretty stoked by how many people have been frothing for us to bring this idea back to life, and we can’t wait to show you the video we’ve been working on for Knot Future.

Let me run you through our typical day in Turks & Caicos so you can get a picture of what life was like. We would wake up at H2O and step onto the balcony to get an early morning view of Long Beach, the most popular kite beach in Turks. At 7 am, the first frothers were already getting on the water

for 10 hours of non-stop wind in 30°C weather. The hype to ride would build through breakfast; seeing kites already up in the air was the signal that it was time to get going!

We’d quickly prep for a full day of exploring on the boat. We packed lunch, snacks, and water and rounded up all the camera gear and batteries. With two drones, two mirrorless cameras, a RED, GoPros, and even a dad cam, it was a lot of gear! Then, a 10-minute drive to the other side of the island to pull up at the dock and load up the boat, which was an impressive Axopar 37 with twin 350hp outboard engines.

All locked and loaded, Kit would lower the boat into the clear turquoise water, we'd pump the tunes and set off to explore! We slowed down to see the passing turtles, but the wind was hot and humid, and we were all happy to hit the Sharky channel (Leeward channel) to pick up speed and enjoy the refreshing breeze.

We did a downwinder to scope out the islands on the first day, looking for potential kite spots. Each day following, based on the wind direction, wind strength and tides, we'd pull up the navigation map on the boat and return to the spot that looked most promising. When the tide would get too low or too high at one spot, we'd be off to the next, either cruising in the boat or upwinding or downwinding through mangroves that created perfect flat water spots.

One of our favourite spots was The Bridge, a common-sounding name, but one of the hardest spots for the conditions to line up perfectly, you know, the ushe*. [The ushe: a usual common occurrence, happening often]. On a fast enough boat, you could get there in half an hour. We didn't realise just how fast our boat was until we'd catch a glimpse of Kit speeding towards us to pick us up after a session. That boat sure looks epic gliding through the water at full speed!

We weren't riding at The Bridge for long before one of the island locals pulled up on a golf cart to investigate what we were up to. The island is private property, but although TCI is one of the most exclusive archipelagos of the Caribbean, it's still the Caribbean; Some rum and a friendly chat will leave any security guard happy! Some advice we took away for next time is that sailing without rum is almost as risky as driving with no seatbelt.

" WE DID A DOWNWINDER TO SCOPE OUT THE ISLANDS ON THE FIRST DAY, LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL KITE SPOTS "



RIDER RAMIRO GALLART
PHOTO NOË FONT



“ NON-STOP, KITING EVERY DAY, EXPLORING NEW SPOTS, ADVENTURING THROUGH THE MANGROVES, AND SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS AND SEA TURTLES. ”

You'd expect clear, blue skies on a trip to the Caribbean, but we had the opposite with aggressive-looking clouds arriving every day, a stark contrast to the paradisiac blue water and white sand. The clouds became a central part of the shoot, and we would chase them every day, choosing spots with the most

clouds because they influenced the wind. We were always trying to fit them into our camera's frame and would watch them in wonder as we headed back on the boat at sunset.

We finished each day with a Jeroboam bottle of rum and coke as we'd take turns wake foiling while cruising back on the boat. We'd enjoy Asados - Argentinean BBQ - almost every night. If we knew it was going to be a big day on the boat, we would make sure to tend to the lady* so that there was a feast to

come home to. [The lady: an 8-hour slow-roasted pork. Tending to the lady: carefully preparing and spoiling the pork (giving her a good time) so that she'd be nice and supple when she comes out of the oven in 8 hours time.]

Chasing the adventure of life at sea felt right! The only question was, could our bodies handle the intense rhythm? Thanks to Kit's stretching tools and the plush beds at H2O, we were able to keep going non-stop, kiting every day, exploring new spots, adventuring through the mangroves, and swimming with dolphins and sea turtles.

RIDER KATIE POTTER
PHOTO OSWALD SMITH

“ WE SURVIVED THE TWO-WEEK-LONG
EXPEDITION WITH LOTS OF LAUGHS,
AMAZING FOOD AND BANTZ ”



The best part of coming back from an epic day out at sea was relaxing and recovering back at the H2O resort, with their relaxed vibe. The poolside bar and barbecue area created a central meeting place, where we could wind down and meet all kinds of characters enjoying the luxurious Turks lifestyle and seaside escape. We ran into people from all walks of life! Kite-centric families at the beach day in and day out, a hairdresser from New York who had cut JKF's hair, and a group of Detroit locals who loved to party. We learnt about each others' culture and way of life and had a great time bonding over barbecue, tequila and everyone's different tastes in party music.

We survived the two-week-long expedition with lots of laughs, amazing food and bantz*. [Bantz: Banter, inside jokes and rabble that doesn't make any sense when you first hear it. E.g. ' Sssgoingon', 'Waddayoutalkinabouuuut', and 'Orite M8' come from Big Lez, a lit Australian comedy show that would we froth on watching almost nightly].

At the end of the trip, we parted ways. Katie, Ewan, and Noè to Hood River, and Rami and Ozzie on a skitz mission to party in Miami. [Skitz mission: a series of events where lots of crazy things happen]. You know, the ushe!

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Check out our extensive Schools Section on the website and find the best school near you to get your friends and relatives involved in this amazing sport, our interactive map has lots of information and some incredible schools too!

DO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WANT TO LEARN TO KITE?

INSIGHT

SU KAY

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS PHOTO MITCHELL DOYLE MARKGRAAFF

With 18 years in the kiteboarding industry under her belt, we're excited to get to know one of the most experienced women in kiting! You may have seen her soaring through the sky in South Africa, or ridden a kiteboard that she herself has laminated. We've got the exclusive interview with one of the women behind the scenes at Airush: Su Kay!



Su, thank you for joining us for this interview! What is your role at Airush, and what does your job involve?

My official title is "Customer Service and Sales Operations Manager", which is quite all-encompassing of all the processes between the product team and the dealer or distributor.

It's a common assumption that working in the kiteboarding industry means a lot of time on and in the water, but is this true, or is it a distant dream?

My water time has varied through the years that I have been in the industry. I may have spent more time on and in the water in the past, but it is a lot less fun when it is as an instructor or tester than when you're riding for yourself.

I am lucky that my working hours are pretty flexible in my current role, and when the wind or swell is up, I can go ride. This year I expect to do over 200 hours on the water across all the sports I do, and most of that will be riding for me, with a bit of assisting the product team on both product tuning and long term testing of equipment.

You started your career in the kite industry from the ground up - literally by sweeping floors! How did you go from that to building kiteboards?

Haha – yes, you are right! I found if you make yourself useful, you will find that people don't mind having you around, which enables you to learn a lot from them. I literally started by sweeping floors and cleaning up and worked my way up to cutting lamination kits,

"MY WORKING HOURS ARE PRETTY FLEXIBLE IN MY CURRENT ROLE, AND WHEN THE WIND OR SWELL IS UP, I CAN GO RIDE."



" PRODUCT SALES COMMUNICATION REQUIRES AN INTIMATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOW'S AND WHY'S OF THE VARIOUS PRODUCTS "



assisting with laminations, and finally becoming the main laminator and part-owner of a custom kiteboarding business – Decay Kiteboards. At the same time, I was pretty handy with a sewing machine and made kite pants (when that was a thing) and did kite repairs.

This was in the early 'naughties', and there were not many capable kite instructors around, so I quickly found myself doing lessons and introducing new people to kitesurfing.

With Airush, you made a move from a more hands-on role to a more hands-on-the-keyboard role.

Do you still find opportunities to get your hands on the products in the development and testing stages?

Product development requires feedback, and product sales communication requires an intimate understanding of the how's and why's of the various products, so it is required of me to go and try everything. Of course, I am more enthusiastic about some products than others as we all have our riding preferences. Still, in the end, it is also great to be able to clearly communicate the differences in the products to our distribution network.

What gear are you riding at the moment and why?

I like to do unhooked freestyle, big air and some wave riding, but foiling can be tricky in Cape Town as it's so windy. To meet these varied requirements, I have the Airush Session kite in all sizes from 4 to 14m available – this is a shared quiver with my husband, so it is not as excessive as it sounds. I also have a Lift in 8m for the big air big jumping days that is not shared! Unfortunately, I could not use this in the ideal conditions last season due to lockdown, so I am looking forward to the coming summer.

" FOR ANYTHING THAT REQUIRES SOMETHING EVEN MORE MINIMALIST. I LOVE MY ETHER WAIST HARNESS. "

I have the Access Bar and the new Ride bar in my quiver. I like the Ride bar, as I can adjust the amount of throw available to suit my riding style on the day, long-throw for wave riding, foil riding or those over-powered big air days, and short-throw for the unhooked freestyle days. I have updated the leash ring to the freestyle leash ring to unhook with confidence, and I use it with the appropriate leash for the riding style - short, long or pro.

My board quiver consists of Diamond 136 for the choppy days when I need something forgiving and an Apex 139 for general freeriding. In addition, I have a Livewire in drag (Diamond Graphics), which is my cable and wakestyle freestyle board that I use with my AK Boots. My Slayer is my cross-over onshore waves and foil board, and the Amp is my go-to all-around surfboard.

For high wind, big air kiting, I use my Ether seat harness, and for anything that requires something even more minimalist, I love my Ether waist harness.

I am also referred to as "Helmet girl" or "Safety Su" as I have been kiting with a helmet from the start. It keeps my head warm, the sun off, and my eardrums and the rest of my head intact! The AK Riot helmet has a great adjustment that ensures it fits snug and comfortable. I also add to that some other AK accessories, like the Riot vest for cable riding and the AK Flotation vest for Freewinging.

Yes, this means there is also the AK Phazer Board and Freewing Air V2 in my quiver. I combine these with the AK Surf Foil, and this foil crosses over nicely to SUP foiling on my Starboard Hypernut.

The "Toy Box" (aka home) is pretty full, but being on the water is my happy place!

Kiteboarding changed your life! When you first discovered the sport in 2001, did you ever imagine you'd be where you are today?

No chance I could have imagined this, especially considering it was such a young sport. I do know that once I saw kiteboarding, I wanted to immerse myself in it – like an addict, I was chasing the thrill of every learning experience it offered, not thinking about anything beyond that. It is a great way of learning to live in the moment and following opportunities when they present themselves.

Speaking of where you are, you've been all over the world! Where are you originally from, and how did you end up living in South Africa?

I am a South African, but sometimes, I identify more with being a Transkeian, as I grew up in this independent homeland, quite removed from South Africa of pre-1994. This presented a challenge for me when I first entered the workforce and had to deal with a very conservative male-dominated environment in the conservation/farming industry – a woman driving a tractor was not that common back then. This prompted the start of my world travels that enabled me to discover kiteboarding.

Kiteboarding has taken me to Christchurch, New Zealand, at the time one of the bustling development hubs in the sport. I became completely involved in kiteboarding once I was there and met my husband, who is also in the kite industry. We ended up with an opportunity in Asia, which prompted a move for us to Hong Kong. I do love Asia, but the lack of wind in Hong Kong meant that after nearly five years there,

"I WAS CHASING THE THRILL OF EVERY LEARNING EXPERIENCE IT OFFERED, NOT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING BEYOND THAT."



“ FUN IS BEING ABLE TO GO AND USE ALL THE GEAR THAT I AM LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE ACCESS TO. ”



we packed it in with the aim to see if we could find a way to live in South Africa – and we did, thanks to Airush!

Your partner Dave (aka DK) is on the design team at Airush. Do you get the opportunity to work together often? Is there any conflict at work or home over you being able to jump higher than him?

DK and I have worked together for as long as we have been together in some way or another – it works best this way for us. We have, however, had a friend comment when on a Cable Park Building Project: “It’s not like you are fighting, just that you are trying to one-up each other.”

This, I believe, has been good as we can always expect an honest opinion or at least a good challenge to keep us improving our skills and knowledge. One such case is the WOO Leaderboards that often have me higher than DK, so he has written some kite design software to design his own kites to improve his jumping.

Tell us a bit about the furriest member of your family! What’s her name, and how did the adoption come about? Does she love watching you kite?

Chloe is the sweetest street-wise dog, having learnt to be sociable while growing up with a couple of car guards (people who look after your car here in South Africa when you are not parked at home). Her first parents had the opportunity to improve their lives,

and we were lucky enough to be asked to foster her. She is now a permanent part of our family, but definitely not a kite dog yet, as she worries that the big kite birds will take us away and has to try to hold on to us whenever we fly them!

When you’re not making the wheels turn behind the scenes at Airush, what are you doing for fun?

Fun is being able to go and use all the gear that I am lucky enough to have access to. However, if there is no wind, I am happy to grab a bike or surf or SUP board. I still enjoy making stuff and will join in on any projects in the Airush Lab. I’m often fiddling around the home, building furniture, gardening, knitting, sewing, cooking, and being sociable.

"FOR NOW, I EXPECT TO MOSTLY BE EXPLORING THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST IN MY FREE TIME."

If you didn't follow a career path in kiteboarding, what do you think you would be doing instead?

I'd be farming – it is also a seasonal type of business that keeps you on your toes and requires problem-solving, and has a very wide scope of activities under one umbrella.

What does the next year look like in the life of Su Kay?

This all depends on how much travel opens up again! For now, I expect to mostly be exploring the South African coast in my free time. As long as the beaches remain open in the windy season, I will be targeting that 20m height on my WOO, which I know is achievable on the Lift kite.

Work-wise if travel does open, I will spend some time at the Starboard head office in Thailand, which is not a chore at all, considering it is on Taco Lake Cable Park!

Thanks for joining us for Insight, Su!

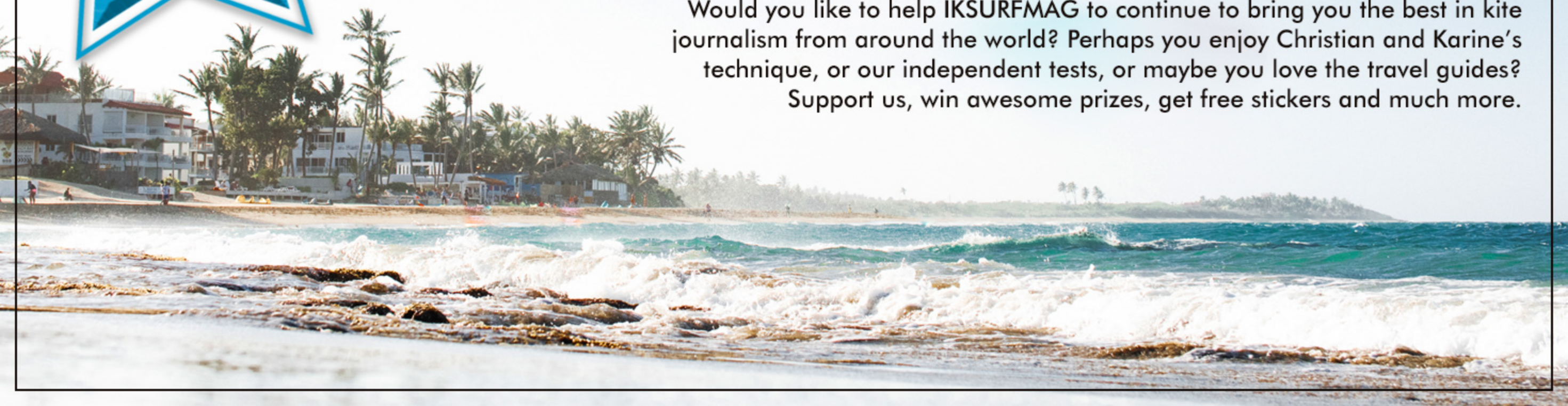
RIDER CARLITO MARTINEZ
PHOTO KITESHOOTER

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LIGHTROOM

STIJN MUL SWAPPING THE BAR IN STYLE ON THE SLINGSHOT RPX
PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY



Lightroom

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

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LIGHTROOM

COLOURFUL SCENES 'DOWN UNDER' ON THE AIRWAVE KOALA!
PHOTO AIRWAVE KITES



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MATTHIAS LARSEN FLIES HIGH ON FOIL ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN LAKE OF SILVAPLANA, SWITZERLAND
PHOTO LUKAS PITSCH



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

SAILING OVERHEAD IS ANNELOUS LAMMERTS,
SHARING THE WATER AND SHARING THE STOKE!
PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY



Lightroom



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

DRAWING LINES ALONG THE SHORELINE OF GRUISSAN WITH DIDIER BOTTA AND ANGELY BUILLOT!
PHOTO WARECK ARNAUD

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

AARON HADLOW SEARCHING FOR STRONG WIND OFF THE BEATEN PATH IN NAMIBIA
PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

HELENA BROCHOCKA FINDS FREESTYLE PERFECTION IN THIS FLATWATER SPOT IN GREECE
PHOTO CHRISTOPHER POOLE



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

ARTHUR GUILLEBERT TAKES 1ST PLACE IN STRONG LEVANTE WINDS AT THE GKA TARIFA!
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS / GKA KITE WORLD TOUR



Lightroom

The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with the latest news and best videos from the kitesurfing industry. With so much to see, where do you even start?!

This issue, we've hand-picked our 4 favourite films that you might have missed 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!

Put the popcorn on, it's Movie Night!

#1 SURFING, KITESURFING & BODYBOARDING A WAVE ONTO DRY ROCK

Watch the Dirty Habits crew attempt to surf a wild wave that detonates onto a dry rock. If you survive the deadly drop, you may be in for the barrel of your life. Kick your Movie Night off right with our #1 pick!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 SOUND OF WATER - ROBBY STEWART

Feeling is believing – and this movie will make you feel it all!! From filmmaker Ky Zarmati, "Sound of Water" tells the story of Baja local Robby Stewart, who uses watersports as a way of enjoying time on the water despite his lack of hearing.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 BRUNA KAJIYA'S BRAZIL SPOT CHECK

You couldn't ask for a better tour guide! Take a trip to the best kiting spots along the coast of Northern Brazil with North Team Rider, Brazilian Kiteboarder, and 3x World Champion — Bruna Kajiya. This one will have you dreaming of your next trip!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 REMOTE & CONTROLLED

Ah, it's been a while since we've watched some park action! The Naish team featuring Ewan, Katie, Christophe, Helena and Vetea hit the road and make their way to Hatteras, North Carolina. Grab a coffee, sit back and enjoy – this is one for the books!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

MOVIE NIGHT

A kitesurfer in a dark wetsuit is captured mid-trick on a wave. The surfer is holding a red and black kite control bar with both hands, and the kite lines are visible against the sky. The surfer's feet are on a white board with a black fin. The background shows a sunset over the ocean with a dark, silhouetted coastline.

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RIDER TIM WALSH
PHOTO FRANKIE BEES

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