

FEBRUARY / MARCH 22

## WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 91 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine!

It's a strong start to 2022, and kite spots worldwide are busier than they've been in years! With so much action on the water, injuries are climbing. Is the risk worth the reward? Get the perspective from top pros and average Joe's. The kite industry appears to be stronger

than ever, with new gear dropping left, right, and centre! Explore the Cabrinha O2 collection, go to Kaapstad with Prolimit, and find out what's new from Core, Slingshot, and more. Find out what Colleen Carroll's been up to and how F-ONE's Charles Brodel found his foil style. With reviews, trick tips, and more inside, it's time to dive into IKSURFMAG Issue 91!

## ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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**- NO PAIN, NO GAIN? -**

**KAAPSTAD / CABRINHA O2 / TARIFA  
TECH / INTERVIEWS / TESTS AND MORE INSIDE!**

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

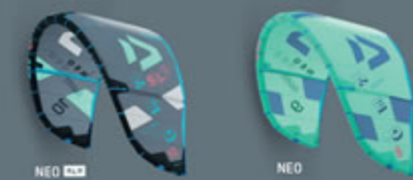
# WHERE THERE'S A WAVE, THERE'S A WAY

DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE DUOTONE

DUOTONE



WAM 0.85 FISH 0.85 WHIP 0.85 SESSION 0.85 WAM 0.85 FISH 0.85 WHIP 0.85 VOKE 0.85 WAM WHIP



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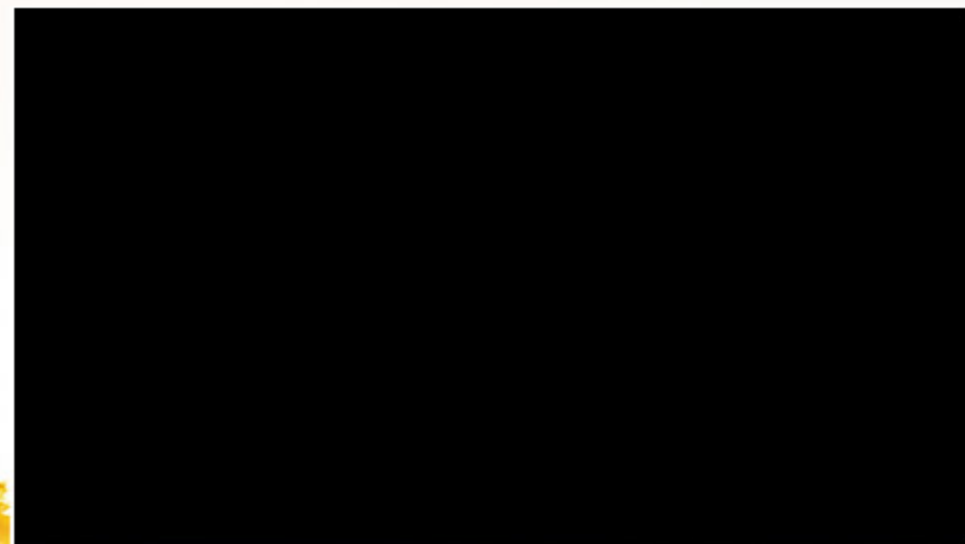


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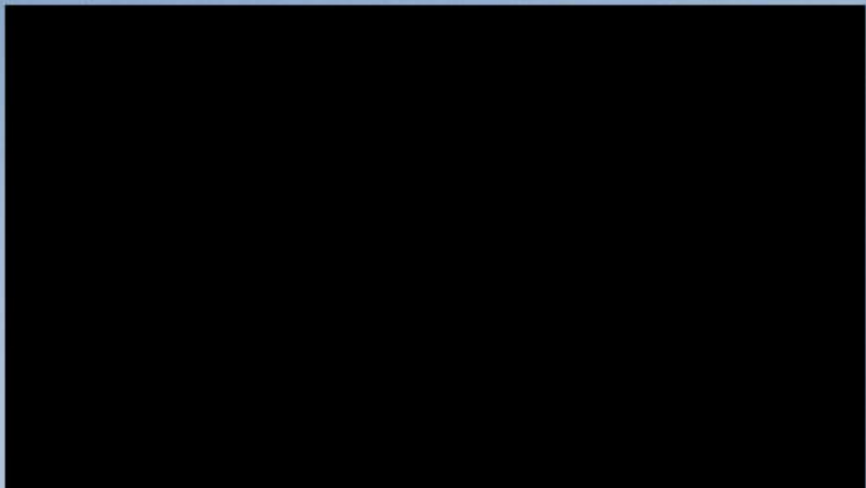
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-  KATANA CHANNELS
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-  TUCKED UNDER RAILS
-  CARTAN CARBON
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- 133/40
- 135/41
- 137/41.5
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EDITORIAL



NO PAIN, NO GAIN?



CABRINHA 02



INSIGHT:  
COLLEEN CARROLL



TECH FOCUS



KAAPSTAD: BEHIND THE  
SCENES WITH PROLIMIT



TECHNIQUE



THE INTERVIEW:  
CHARLES BRODEL



ON THE FLY



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DIDIER BOTTA AT THE SNOWKITE MASTERS EVENT  
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I used to love travelling. The charm of a new culture, the nervous excitement of arriving at a new kite spot, even navigating a new airport was a refreshing experience. I lived for it, and I was fortunate enough to spend several years on the road as a 'digital nomad', going from spot to spot, chasing the wind and, of course, the wifi.

The world has become a whole lot smaller lately. It's not that travelling has become a thing of the past, it's just become a bit more complicated than it used to be. After a whirlwind 2020, which ended with me joining the team at IKSURFMAG, I have since had my feet firmly planted in South Africa's windy seaside city of Blouberg. It's safe to say that nobody has violated my nasal passages in a very long time.

Having a home base has been a relief. There are a lot of everyday luxuries that make this place feel like home, including things as simple as not having to use Google Maps to get where I need to go! Having a home base at a kite spot is even better. Of course, the conditions at the local spot are sometimes a lot more than I can handle, but there are days of absolute perfection that leave me glowing when I get off the water.

When I need some flatwater or a progression session, it's just over an hour up the road to the easy conditions of Langebaan. Nowadays, even an hour drive seems like a bit of an adventure! I can't remember the last time I went to a new kite spot. It's crazy how quickly things can change.

I suppose it's only natural to learn which spots and conditions you like the most and continue going back to those same spots. If you've tried every café in town and one clearly stands out above the rest, you're going to keep going back, especially if it's just down the road.



RIDER LUKE MCGILLEWIE PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS

Sometimes, though, it's good to get out of that comfort zone, whether you want to or not. A couple of weeks ago, my partner and I got strong-armed by some well-meaning friends into going on a road trip to the Eastern Cape. For me, this meant new kite spots all along the coast. The friends who instigated the adventure were repeating a favourite trip from the year before, which proves my earlier point!

When we hit the first windy day of our trip, I found myself standing on the beach like a deer in headlights. Gauging the wind direction and strength, beach and water hazards, and keeping an eye out for local rules on the spot was, surprisingly, a very unfamiliar experience! For me, my "spot check" muscles had completely atrophied. Everything becomes a habit when you're so used to kiting in one spot.

The next new spot was in the open ocean with a rocky bottom close to the beach and a washing machine of unpredictable waves a little further out. Naturally, I got wiped out by a massive wave that came out of nowhere. I won't lie; flailing around looking for my board more than 500m out to sea had me a bit concerned about what was beneath the surface. I moved a bit closer to the beach after that to get my heart rate back into the normal zone. Sharks can sense fear, right?

We were just shy of 1,000 km from home at the furthest point of our road trip, but it was far enough to pull me out of my bubble and stoke the coals that represented my slowly-fading desire to try new things and see new places. Now that that's been reignited, my suitcase is starting to look very empty...

*Crystal Veness*  
Editor



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RIDER CRYSTAL VENESS PHOTO LUKE MCGILLEWIE

EDITORIAL

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# NO PAIN, NO GAIN?



Being a top-level athlete in any sport comes with significant risk; kiting is no different. The road to achieving kitesurfing glory can be bumpy, but is the risk worth the reward? Editor Crystal Veness asks international pros and average Joe's what they think. Read on to hear their unique perspectives!

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS  
RIDER JULIAN HUYNH PHOTO BO VAN WYK

**“ IT IS STILL A SPORT, AND WITH ALL SPORTS, ESPECIALLY WHERE NATURE IS A FACTOR, THERE ARE RISKS. ”**

They say kitesurfing is an extreme sport. Many of us would be inclined to disagree with that statement, choosing to avoid significant risks while enjoying this fantastic sport. If you're safety-focused and follow a slow-and-steady progression path, for many kites, the most painful injury they've experienced is a water-logged face and a bruised ego.

However, it is still a sport, and with all sports, especially where nature is a factor, there are risks. For professional kites and hobbyists alike, there is some possibility of injury in every session. Yet we - and I will assume that you, dear reader, are an average, everyday kiter like myself - are more likely to twist an ankle walking down to the beach to set up our gear than Jesse Richman is to get injured while doing a megaloop.

Top-level kites have that innate kite control that we - allow me once again to make an assumption about your riding level - can only dream of achieving. For these legends, flying a kite is like breathing. Going for a session is akin to a casual stroll to the mailbox. If an unexpectedly strong gust of wind or a rogue wave hits, it's but a sneeze. Kiting is, for the well-trained few, second nature.

And yet, we often look to these riders for inspiration. They, after all, make it look so easy. So, with some encouragement from our friends and confidence bolstered by the incredible lift and power and reliability of our equipment, we send it, fully believing that we will succeed. Oh, how optimistic we are!

RIDER RUBEN LENTEN PHOTO LUDOVIC FRANCO





RIDER JESSE RICHMAN  
PHOTO DANIEL SULLIVAN



**“ TO TAKE THE SPORT TO NEW HEIGHTS REQUIRES DOING THINGS THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN DONE. ”**

My worst kiting injury happened while learning front rolls in the Outer Banks. It was a simple classic, the one foot in, one foot out boogaloo, resulting in two fractured metatarsals and five weeks in a moon boot. Worst yet, trying to look cool (that was my first mistake) at the cable park, I was rewarded with a fractured tibia and six weeks away from my kiteboard. My risk tolerance has never been the same.

While internationally sponsored kitesurfers, with their incredible control and a wealth of experience, are much more insulated to injury than we are, they are not immune. To take the sport to new heights requires doing things that have never been done. Standing on top of a big air or freestyle podium requires proving you're the best in the world against others that are similarly qualified. To win, you need to push, and to push, leaves you exposed.

With his most significant injury to date, a badly broken leg in the heavy waves of Ho'okipa, we wondered how Jesse Richman approaches risk. He says, "Life is an exciting, wild, and dangerous ride; one can get seriously hurt doing just about anything. However, there is an increased risk when going out into extreme conditions or performing advanced manoeuvres kiteboarding. I don't mind taking risks when I feel prepared. I always do everything I can to assess and manage risk. I utilise a military special forces training style, where one trains for every possible scenario and is as prepared as possible for any outcome. I constantly adapt and modify my plan throughout any risk-filled adventure,



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# NAISH



**“ KITEBOARDING AT A HIGH LEVEL DEFINITELY COMES WITH SIGNIFICANT RISKS, WHICH WE ACCEPT... ”**

continually readjusting to stay on the path of highest success and be ready with a backup plan if the shit hits the fan."

Ruben Lenten, whose latest injury shattered his ankle into more than twenty pieces, is finally getting back on the board after two years and three surgeries. For him, "Kiteboarding at a high level definitely comes with significant risks, which we accept... Risk is something that grows on you; you become more aware of it as more things happen or

if there's more on the line to lose. These can be injuries, sponsor deals, competitions or family, for example. You'll start becoming more aware of your goals, and that's when you weigh out risk vs reward more often."

Still, we can't resist the urge to send it that little bit harder because it just feels so good. Every year, as the Cape Doctor delivers strong winds to South Africa's famous Blouberg beachfront, annual trips to the emergency room rise. At this moment, a few of my good friends are sitting with their legs elevated and a long road to recovery ahead.

Up-and-coming big air kiter, Julian Huynh, who is pursuing a career in kitesurfing, has a

fractured tibia and fibula after an incredibly unlucky injury that occurred while taking off for a jump when the lip of a wave smashed into his leg. After surgery and some new hardware in his leg, he is getting ready to head home to France, where he will continue his recovery over the next four months.

Amanda Rootman, a passionate kiter who works in kite industry sales and distribution, is an avid wave rider who has been kiting for 14 years. Her first major injury happened last month while attempting a kite loop on a twin tip. She landed with the dreaded one foot out, bending her ankle and breaking her lower leg bone. As she put it, "I tried something out of my comfort zone... and basically ran out of talent trying something new!"

**“ IT WAS A RELIEF TO SEE HIM AT THE BEACH THE OTHER DAY, ALBEIT ON CRUTCHES, BUT GREAT TO SEE HIS POSITIVE STATE OF MIND. ”**

Henk, an athletic guy who simply kites because he loves it, crashed while landing a jump and ended up with the worst injury he's experienced in his very active life: a dislocated ankle, torn membrane and ligaments, and a broken fibula and tibia. It was a relief to see him at the beach the other day, albeit on crutches, but great to see his positive state of mind.

I had to ask, is the risk worth the reward? Henk says, "Most definitely. Most adrenaline-filled sports come with the element of risk, and that is worth taking, right?" Amanda adds, "Learning to kite was a life changer and having access to a sport that provides as much stoke as kiting does is literally a blessing. The reward FAR outweighs the risk." And Julian, less than a week after his surgery, says, "I will still continue to go in the water and to push myself; kitesurfing is an extreme sport, and we need to all be aware of it."

On the competitive side of the sport, Steven Akkersdijk has taken his fair share of hits. He says, "I'm very conscious about the risks, especially with big air. All of this goes out of the window when riding a competition, though; the adrenaline is pumping, and you know there is a safety crew on the beach. Somehow, it's like flipping a switch and thinking about the consequences later."

Having had two injuries of note, a crash during the Red Bull Megaloop Challenge and an incident foiling in the waves that took a good six months to recover from, Akkersdijk remains confident that kiting is a low risk endeavor, adding, "Both of my injuries were the direct result of a stupid mistake and bad luck,

RIDER LEWIS CRATHERN  
PHOTO EUNICE BERGIN



RIDER PIPPA VAN IERSEL  
PHOTO MIRIAM JOANNA



## “ A SLIGHTLY MISTIMED DOWNLOOP HAD HER DESCENDING FASTER THAN EXPECTED ”

making it something I'm not too worried about happening again... As I mostly ride within my comfort zone and only take small and controlled steps outside, I don't see a lot of risk in kiteboarding."

With one of the most widely seen injuries to occur in a kitesurfing competition, Lewis Crathern provides some insight into his 2016 King of the Air crash. "I remember riding well and feeling like the gods had finally delivered a 35 knot + KOTA. It was the semi-final and on my first run out, I saw yet another great kicker. It ever so slightly closed on me and rotated me 90 degrees on the way up, effectively backwards on and upside down. I sent the kite round and committed to a backroll but never fully made it around. I battled to get out of a strange backwards position, and that was that. Nine days later, I woke up from an induced coma in hospital."

Reflecting on the accident, Crathern says, "After seeing the video of what happened, it was clear I had partially lost my airborne spatial awareness. This, for me, has to be the biggest fear of all big air riders. When we are so high up and sometimes moving so fast through the air, it's something that you can simply never allow to happen." While there were no broken bones to heal, the injury resulted in so much physical trauma it took more than a year for him to get back to where he was. Is it worth it? "100%!"

Pippa van Iersel, 22-years-old, has been travelling the world as one of the top riders on Duotone's pro team. On a typical windy day in Cape Town, she took off on a wave a bit out of control. A slightly mistimed downloop had her descending faster than expected,

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SAMUEL CARDENAS

**“ WITH BIG AIR BEING HIS PASSION AND SKILL SET, HE ALWAYS KNEW AN INJURY WAS POSSIBLE ”**

partially tearing the ACL on both knees and bruising her bones. She admitted, "In the beginning, everyone told me: "you're gonna get stronger from this, and you will be fine". At that point, I also didn't know what was wrong with my knees yet and only thought: "how would you know?!" It took me a couple of days to let it all sink in, and I started to not wake up or fall asleep in tears. Because yes, I had fear and for sure was scared I was out of the game for a long time, not being able to do what I love most for a while."

She was lucky to avoid surgery, but her recovery plan includes a few months of walking in braces and avoiding any impact. However, she remains positive, "Once you get a clear view of what the damage is and know what you're facing, you start to make a recovery plan and do everything to get back as strong as possible." Asked her thoughts on risk, she said, "I would never want to change the life I'm living right now. The risk of injury is part of it and makes me the person I am today."

One of the most significant injuries I've ever seen happened to Philipp Schonger, a 43-year-old big air kiter from Seattle. He has made such an impression on the kiting community that he has earned himself a spot on the Naish team, even whilst having a full-time career in an unrelated industry. With big air being his passion and skill set, he always knew an injury was possible, but when his number came up, after a failed megaloop and several cartwheels through the water of the Hood River, it didn't happen how he expected.

RIDER PHILIPP SCHONGER  
PHOTO ANDY PETRALI

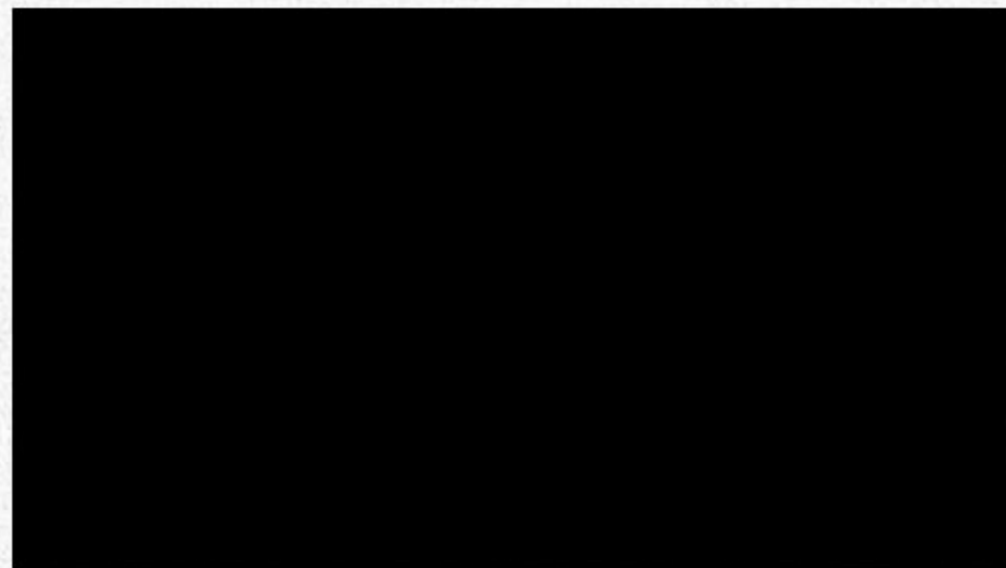


**“ I WILL STILL CONTINUE TO GO IN THE WATER AND TO PUSH MYSELF; KITESURFING IS AN EXTREME SPORT, AND WE NEED TO ALL BE AWARE OF IT. ”**





RIDER: KADEN SPONHAUER PHOTOGRAPHER: ERIC DURAN



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After three visits to the ER, he got the bad news from the surgeon, "It's what I was afraid of; it's a worst-case scenario. Looks like you have a rupture in your intestine. We need to perform an emergency surgery now." He had major surgery and spent a week in hospital, leaving with a 9" incision and 58 staples up and down his body. Schonger said, "I never thought I would

have the type of injury I sustained. I always thought it would be a broken leg, knee or another broken rib, but not a ruptured intestine that could have killed me."

How does one come back from an injury like that? I was sure, given his experience, that Schonger would be shy to return to the water. Instead, he made this powerful statement: "Kiteboarding doesn't have to be very dangerous. There's always risk, of course, but there's a risk I get hurt every time I get out of bed, go for a walk or drive my car. Kiteboarding gives me energy, gets me to exercise outside and enjoy the elements

no matter the season and allows me to share my passion with my friends and the community. It helps me disconnect from the day to day challenges, feel the freedom and allows me to fly like a bird, an incredible feeling. Every time I look outside and see the trees move, I still get excited and get that amazing feeling that has kept me loving this sport for so long. I have travelled to far and remote places exploring all corners of the planet that I wouldn't have looked for if it wasn't for kiteboarding. Kiteboarding has given me so much for so many years. While I will be more conservative going forward in doing any extreme moves at extreme heights, I am still planning on going to "Send it!" when my body is ready and the conditions align!"



**“ FROM THE CASUAL KITER TO THE TOP RIDERS IN THE WORLD, THE ANSWER IS CLEAR. IT'S WORTH IT. ”**

Jesse Richman has wholeheartedly accepted the risk, "I honestly would rather live an exciting life than one in fear. I do everything to stay healthy and injury-free. I know that sometimes I miscalculate, and that's just part of life. A failure is only a failure if you stay down."

Ruben Lenten is sure, "If you follow your heart to realise your dreams and you believe in yourself, it's always worth it. It's not despite my biggest challenges but because of my biggest challenges that I have everything that I deeply care about in life."

Rou Chater took a close look at the dangers of kiteboarding in THIS 2020 article, referring to a Dutch study that followed 194 kitesurfers, eventually determining that "The injury rate of kitesurfing is in the range of other popular (contact) sports. Most injuries are relatively mild, although kitesurfing has the potential to cause serious injuries." So, yes, it's true that kiteboarding has an element of risk, but studies have shown that it is essentially as dangerous as you want it to be. Kitesurfing is as safe as it has ever been, and, while safety is never guaranteed, a risk-averse kiter can go through their entire kiting life without a single injury. When I started reaching out to different athletes and asking friends about their own painful encounters, I wasn't sure what the outcome of this article would be. I admit that I didn't think that there would be such a resounding consensus, and am humbled and inspired by the great love that we all have for our sport; from the casual kiter to the top riders in the world, the answer is clear. It's worth it. Kiting is risky. Injuries will happen. It will hurt. We will learn. But it is worth it.

# ADVENTURE AWAITS



## PEAK

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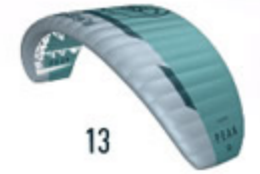
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**WORDS** ANNELOUS LAMMERTS, ALBY RONDINA, AND LUCAS ARSENAULT  
**PHOTOS** LUKAS STILLER

# CABRINHA 02

Alby Rondina, Annelous Lammerts and Lucas Arsenault have been an essential part of Cabrinha's evolution over the last decade. With an unquenchable thirst for time on the water and diverse equipment and riding styles, their versatility as kiteboarders is second to none. Who better to represent the team for the Cabrinha 02 shoot?! Join these three international athletes for 12 days in Sardinia in this exclusive IKSURFMAG article!





**“ WE COULD ENJOY CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER, FREESTYLE SESSIONS IN BUTTER FLAT WATER, AND FUN SESSIONS IN THE WAVES! ”**

The Cabrinha Ohana is unique. We live in all parts of the world and might not see each other for a long time, but when we meet again, it's like no time has passed, and it feels like the last time we were together was yesterday. We are a close-knit family with a strong passion for what we do that tightly connects us. The company is constantly evolving, which motivates us to strive to be the best, both with product development and our riding.

Maui has always been a favourite shoot location for the Cabrinha team, where we have our company headquarters. Most product shoots over the last decade have occurred on home soil, but we have had the opportunity to get outside of the box over the previous two seasons. For 02, the shoot landed in Alby Rondina's backyard. What better place than the diverse scenery of Sardinia, where we could enjoy crystal clear water, freestyle sessions in butter flat water, and fun sessions in the waves!

Our trio has more than 30 years of combined experience as part of the Cabrinha family, with Alby Rondina being the 'eldest son' at 18 years with Cabrinha! So, it was only natural that we make a stop at ProKite Alby Rondina in Sicily before continuing together to the shoot location of Sardinia. Lucas arrived from Canada, where he's been exploring all the kite spots his home country has to offer over the past year, and Annelous took a break from her Formula Kite race training to join us from the Netherlands.



**“ IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN RIDING THE NEWEST GEAR WITH ALL YOUR BEST FRIENDS AND THE MOST TALENTED MEDIA TEAM FOLLOWING YOU! ”**

We had a tremendous asset in Cabrinha rider Markino Orrù, who lives in Sardinia and has a kite centre in the southwest. His local knowledge was vital in helping us find the most beautiful shoot locations to fit the wind.

Cabrinha shoots are always super fun because we all share the same passion and vibe, going big, having fun and delivering

for the cameras. It doesn't get much better than riding the newest gear with all your best friends and the most talented media team following you! Behind the cameras, we had photographer Lukas Stiller and videographer Laci Kobulsky. They kept the spirit high even though they literally had to walk miles along un-accessible roads carrying suitcases full of flashes, cameras, batteries, and snacks.

While we had a lot of products to shoot, we all shared the same excitement to try the new Cabrinha FX2. It's an entirely new kite this year, and designer Brodie Sutherland did

a stellar job with it. Lucas, with roots firmly planted in freestyle, was the ideal rider to showcase this kite; he's ridden each evolution of the FX since it was released. The new higher aspect shape directly improved the forward drive explosiveness with its 4-line setup. Lucas was blown away by how an easy bridle modification impacted the performance by converting the kite to a 6-line setup. For him, this year felt like a big progression forwards, a significant improvement in the freestyle department without compromising any big air abilities. The FX2 truly has two different personalities, and they're both brilliant.



Annelous spent most of her time in Sardinia riding the Moto. It's one of Cabrinha's easiest kites to fly with a comfortable, direct feeling. For her, it's the one kite you can use for all disciplines, whether it's foil, surf, jumping or even some unhooked tricks. She has spent the last few years diversifying her riding, with foiling becoming a huge passion, as it allows her to spend more time on the water than ever. When it came to this trip, the Moto was a favourite for getting out and foiling in any conditions!

**“ WHEN IT CAME TO THIS TRIP, THE MOTO WAS A FAVOURITE FOR GETTING OUT AND FOILING IN ANY CONDITIONS! ”**

EXPERIENCE  
INNOVATIVE  
TECHNOLOGY



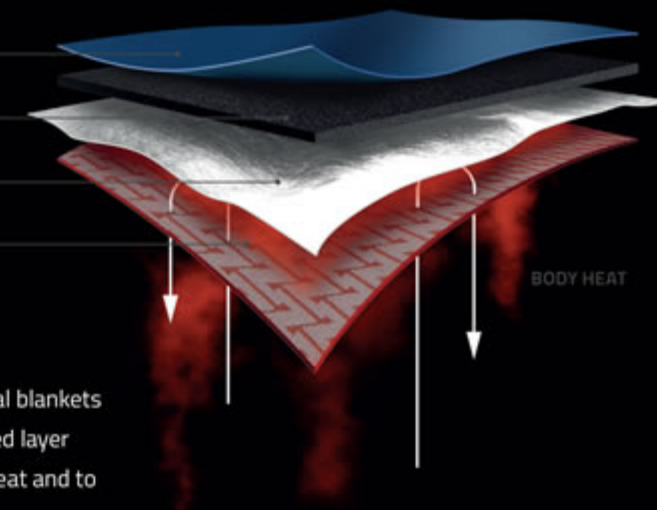
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**PROLIMIT**



**“ WITH CONDITIONS SO PERFECT, WE WEREN'T WILLING TO GET OFF THE WATER EVEN AFTER THE SUN HAD SET! ”**

The Switchblade is a legend in the Cabrinha lineup, and Alby has been riding this kite from the start. The design progression has been wild; in the early days, the Switchblade had pulleys on the bar, pulleys on the kite, solid bar pressure, and performed like an old C-kite, but it was still massively popular! Now, it's feather-light, has an incredibly simple bridle, and a direct feeling in the sky. Beginners can learn on this kite and work on their first jumps and rotations, and then there's Camdyn Kellett throwing extreme kite loops in Cape Town on the same kite! The extra hang time that can be achieved with the 02 Switchblade is fantastic, and we're excited to see kites up their game, no matter what discipline they ride. With our varied shoot conditions, the Switchblade was Alby's go-to kite.

We constantly push each other to go bigger or hold the grab longer. The motto this year was "go higher with the kite lower". It's hard to agree on the best session of the shoot because there were so many! We had heavenly conditions for 10 out of the 12 days of our shoot. From flatwater in Porto Pino and Porto Botte to Sant'Antioco with conditions so perfect, we weren't willing to get off the water even after the sun had set!

Perhaps the most memorable experience was riding a rare south wind in Porto Pino, with clear blue water, white sand and dunes surrounding the spot. One day, after shooting foiling, the wind got strong enough for us to ride twin tips. We couldn't resist checking out the flat water near the port entrance, with its breathtaking backdrop.



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**“ WE HAD BETTER WIND CONDITIONS THAN WE COULD HAVE HOPED FOR, BEAUTIFUL SUNSHINE, STUNNING LOCATIONS, AND ENDLESS AMOUNTS OF PIZZA. ”**

After a few fishing boats passed us on the way into the port, we saw the police boat approaching at full speed with the sirens on. We raced to the beach to deflate, pack down, and make ourselves scarce, which meant finishing the day early and heading for a drink at the beach bar.

After a couple of rounds, the music started, so we stayed for a few more! Lucas had

been trying to learn Italian during the trip and, despite his best effort, only managed to learn a couple of sentences. One of them was "Buon Compleanno", which is Happy Birthday. He could say that one very well, so you can be sure a few of the ladies at the beach bar heard that one! We stayed dancing until late into the night; it was an epic party and a great way to finish a crazy day!

On the very last session of the shoot, we went to an entirely new spot with kickers and swell to chase those last few perfect shots.

Cruising through the ocean behind the swell line to capture aerial shots with the drone was incredible. The scenery from the ocean looking back upon the land was stunning, especially when the surrounding mountains lit up with the sunset. It was surreal; the way we as kitesurfers can experience nature, feel its power and ride with it is always an amazing thing.

The trip was an incredible success. We had better wind conditions than we could have hoped for, beautiful sunshine, stunning locations, and endless amounts of pizza. As a team, we are extremely motivated. Everyone did their parts which made our mission both easy and enjoyable.



**“ WE’VE BECOME GREAT FRIENDS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. KITEBOARDING IS OUR PASSION, AND WE HAVE ALL CHOSEN TO REVOLVE OUR LIVES AROUND IT. ”**

Departing at the end of a Cabrinha shoot is like saying goodbye to family, but we are always close no matter how far away we are spread across the world.

Annelous went off to keep ticking things off her bucket list, like tow-foiling in bigger waves and sending even bigger kite loops on the new FX2. Alby headed back to Sicily, where his kite centre will reopen at the beginning of April, loaded up with new Cabrinha 02 gear. You’ll be able to spot him at demo events around Europe in the Cabrinha RV, where you can try out the latest gear and join him for a cold beer! And Lucas got on a flight back to Canada, where he plans to get out and ride as much as he can, with the hopes of fewer travel restrictions so he can chase wind and waves!

As always, the camaraderie between our group is relaxed and fun; we’ve become great friends over the past few years. Kiteboarding is our passion, and we have all chosen to revolve our lives around it. All of us have come together to be a part of Cabrinha at different ages, with different accents and languages, styles and backgrounds. We all share the same love for the sport, are proud to be on the Cabrinha team, and beyond stoked to share the 02 season with you!



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# INSIGHT

## COLLEEN CARROLL

WORDS JEN TYLER

Growing up in the Northwest with various action sports on her doorstep, Colleen Carroll spent most of her time in the mountains, woods, or by the lake. From snowboarding to mountain biking to wakeboarding to surfing, kiteboarding was next on the list. Since then, Colleen has been a regular on the podium, winning in freestyle, sliders, surf and more! In this 'Insight' feature, Jen Tyler takes Colleen for a trip down memory lane, the highs and lows of competition, and finds out what she's up to these days. We've got it all right here - exclusively on IKSURFMAG!



Colleen, it's great to have you featured in 'Insight' this issue; we're stoked to have you here. You grew up in the Northwest, USA, in an outdoorsy family. Can you tell us a little about your childhood living between the Puget Sound and the North Cascade mountain ranges?

I grew up near Seattle, Washington, which afforded my family and me many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Growing up, we spent a ton of time in the woods, mountains, lakes and Puget Sound, with the ability to do a variety of action sports right from our front door, which I believe has inspired the lifestyle I still live today.

**With snowboarding, mountain biking, wakeboarding, and surfing in the Pacific Northwest, it was only a matter of time before you ended up on a kiteboard! Who initially introduced you to the sport?**

My parents were really into windsurfing throughout the 80s and early 90s and regularly loaded my brother and me up in our camper van headed to Hood River, Oregon, for weekends and extended trips from the time we were babies. It's also where we first saw kiteboarding, which we soon had to try! At this point (the early 2000s?), my brother and I were avid snowboarders and wakeboarders, and we were immediately drawn to kiteboarding. Some of my parent's friends were early adopters of the sport and took us out to give it a try. One close friend, in particular, Jose Gruart, took us under his wing, and once the gear became relatively safe, he started to teach us more regularly. I didn't take to the sport immediately as, at the time, it seemed so complicated, and I couldn't afford to own my gear.

**"MY BROTHER AND I WERE AVID SNOWBOARDERS AND WAKEBOARDERS, AND WE WERE IMMEDIATELY DRAWN TO KITEBOARDING."**



PHOTO: XANDER NOE



PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

**When did you start working at the local kite shop, and did you ever imagine you'd eventually be a pro kiter?**

I met some friends who worked for a teeny shop/school in Bellingham, Washington, where I went to University, who were way better at kiteboarding than I was. I was still borrowing my dad's gear, who lived an hour and a half away from me, proving to be a bit of a deterrent to my progression! The crew who worked for what is now known as "Kite Paddle Surf" offered me loaner kite gear in exchange for helping them pack up and ship out online orders, which were quickly becoming overwhelming. Once I had equipment that I could use anytime I wanted, I was hooked. However, I never thought I would become a professional kiteboarder in any way!

"ONCE I HAD EQUIPMENT THAT I COULD USE ANYTIME I WANTED, I WAS HOOKED."

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" I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BECOME A  
PROFESSIONAL KITEBOARDER IN ANY WAY! "



PHOTO VIOLA JAGL

" THE HIGH YOU FEEL WHEN YOU STOMP A DIFFICULT TRICK YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON IN A HEAT IS UNBEATABLE! "

**When did you first get into the Park riding scene? What's the general park vibe like today compared to when the Kite Park League was running?**

I moved to Hood River sometime around 2010 and was quickly drawn to riding in the Slider Project Park. With my background being in snowboarding, I immediately related riding in snowboard parks to riding in kite parks. Unfortunately, it's hard to say much about the general park vibe at the moment because the pandemic put a big pause on all kite park events and the KPL. However, I haven't travelled nearly as much in the last two years, so I can only

speak to the park vibe in Hood River, which is very much alive and well from June to August!

**Being a former Park and Freestyle Kiteboarding Champion, can you share the highs and lows of competing? If you could turn back time, what would you do differently, if anything?**

The high you feel when you stomp a difficult trick you've been working on in a heat is unbeatable! To feel the hard work pays off when it counts will keep you putting in all the hours and effort even when the events are over and cameras are turned off. As for lows, for me, it's probably just the opposite. You feel like you don't

rise to your potential, and you underperform in an event. The worst feeling is knowing that you let yourself down. Scoring lower than someone who is absolutely crushing it is not a loss if you still did your best.

The only thing I wish I had pushed for harder and earlier on in my career is equal pay for male and female athletes. Looking back to the start, I felt so lucky to be a part of it all, and I didn't want to upset the status quo. But now, I know that we should have stood up for ourselves earlier to make things more equitable for female athletes, which unfortunately is something we are still working for today.

" I WAS LOOKING FOR MORE TASKS TO DIVERSIFY MY SKILLS AND EARN SOME MONEY THAT DIDN'T DIRECTLY RELATE TO PHYSICALLY KITEBOARDING. "

**Do you have any injuries from the past that you still suffer from today?**

Nothing too severe, but I have injuries from kiteboarding that I will be maintaining for the rest of my life. My right shoulder, right ankle, and mid-back have lingering injuries that I must be careful of and make sure I am correctly training off the water to keep them strong and pain-free.

**What was it like working with the Duotone USA crew? How did you end up in that position, and what did your job role include?**

As the Marketing Coordinator for Boards & More North America (which, in addition to Duotone, also encompasses Fanatic & Ion), I loved working with the USA crew. I have been close to these people for many years, so it's such a natural fit to work behind the scenes with them. After a while, I was looking for more tasks to diversify my skills and earn some money that didn't directly relate to physically kiteboarding. There was a need for help in the USA office with marketing, so it seemed like a good match. As with many jobs in kiteboarding, I wore many hats in that role, and each day or project could be totally different.

**You've gone in a new direction recently, with a career in Real Estate! How has this new career path changed your life?**

Yes! I have added Real Estate to my resume as of lately. It has kept me super busy at home during the past year and a half while the pandemic shook things up. It has been an excellent way for me to grow and learn a ton, and it's been a great way to continue to work with kiteboarders! Most of my Real Estate clients are all kiteboarders which I love because real estate transactions can be quite intimate and stressful at times, and it is a huge benefit to start on this common ground.



PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



**Have you been able to find a balance between career development in Real Estate and putting time into your kiting career?**

At the start, I was putting almost everything I had into Real Estate. It was necessary to learn as much as possible as fast as possible (and our demanding market). Still, it was also because travels for kiteboarding and my work in marketing had abruptly come to a standstill, so it felt like the right thing to do at the time. Now that I'm going on two years as a licensed agent, I am finding more balance between the two industries. I am still incredibly passionate about kiteboarding and am now winging and supporting Duotone, Ion, and Fanatic. I will be spending more time on the water and being involved with our brands.

**"I AM FINDING MORE BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO INDUSTRIES."**

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**Can you tell us a little about Strut Kiteboarding? What inspired the project, and how has this season been going for you and Sensi?**

Strut Kiteboarding is a company that I started with Sensi Graves, where we host women's kiteboarding progression camps. Both Sensi and I have always loved coaching kiteboarding and empowering other women on the water. And so, about five years ago, we decided to try out our first week-long women's progression camp in Mexico.

We often met women who lacked female camaraderie on the water and would reach out about how to progress to their next level, which is precisely what we offer in our camps! The camps have been going great, and we run camps all year long, having taken a short break due to travel restrictions last year. We are currently full for the following two camps, but we will announce our summer and fall camps very soon, so keep an eye out!

**Loading up the van for the weekend with all your toys, what do you take and where do you go?**

All the gear all the time! I bring my full quiver of Duotone Kiteboarding Dice SLS, throw in a Mono or two, as well as my DLAB Juice if there are light wind conditions on the forecast, Team Series 134 with boots, Jamie 136 with NTT straps, and Pace with Carve foil setup. These days, I always have to throw in my Duotone & Fanatic Foilwing gear as well, just in case a session presents itself. I love having equipment for both sports to maximise time on the water. As for the weekend destination, I'd still stay close to home in the Columbia Gorge. There's nowhere I'd rather spend a summertime weekend!

PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

**" I LOVE HAVING EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH SPORTS TO MAXIMISE TIME ON THE WATER. "**



PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

" WE HAD EVERYTHING FROM 12M FREESTYLE SESSIONS TO FOILING AT NIGHT FROM THE BACK OF THE YACHT TO NUKING 40KTS+ "



**Are there more 'Sum of 5' trips booked in the foreseeable future?**

I was just discussing that with our marketing manager last week! We have some plans on the cards... so stay tuned!

**Congratulations to you and Rich - fantastic news! The honeymoon photos looked stunning. How was Greece?**

Thank you! Greece was AMAZING. I had never been before, and it was even better than I had expected. I started the trip with my Duotone Kiteboarding teammates living aboard Mobius Yacht and shooting for the new Evo SLS. We scored some insane conditions. We had everything from 12m freestyle sessions to foiling at night from the back of the yacht to nuking 40kts+ and boosting huge on 8m kites. After the shoot was over, Rich landed in Athens, and we went full tourist mode - which I never do! It was such a treat to travel with almost no plan. We had a blast; Greece knows how to do hospitality right!

**We've got to ask, what's the deal with @colin\_colin\_carroll?!**

There's no blood relation, and I've actually never met him! But I find his banter quite entertaining, although I completely disagree with his opinions at times! However, he seems to like ruffling feathers, so I feel that this would be just fine with him.

**Any exciting plans in the pipeline for 2022?**

You have no idea - Probably my most exciting plan to date, but I can't announce it just yet!

**Exciting!! Thanks so much, Colleen. It was great to catch up with you.**

And you too, Jen! Thanks!

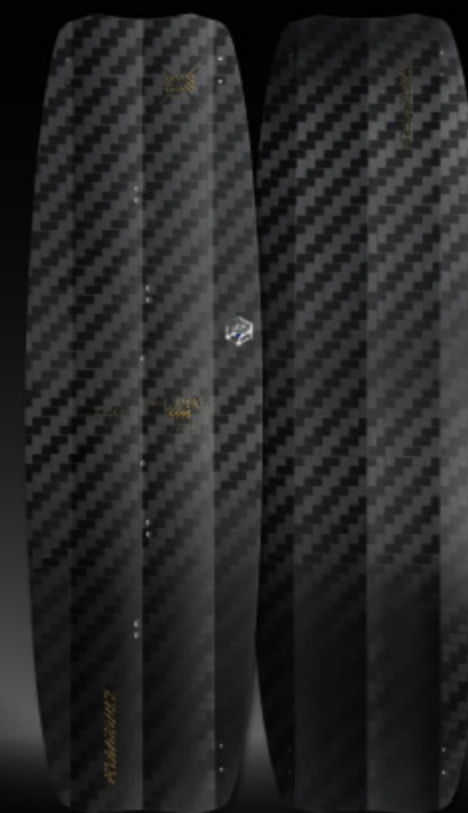
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# TECH FOCUS

## FLYSURFER 20 YEARS OF TECHNICAL EVOLUTION

### Q&A with Christoph Hesina

A brand born in Bavaria that was, and still is, ahead of its time; we check in with FLYSURFER on their 20th anniversary! Find out where it all began, the highs and lows of the past 20 years, and what the future holds in this interview with FLYSURFER Head of Marketing Christoph Hesina.



FLYSURFER  
20  
YEARS

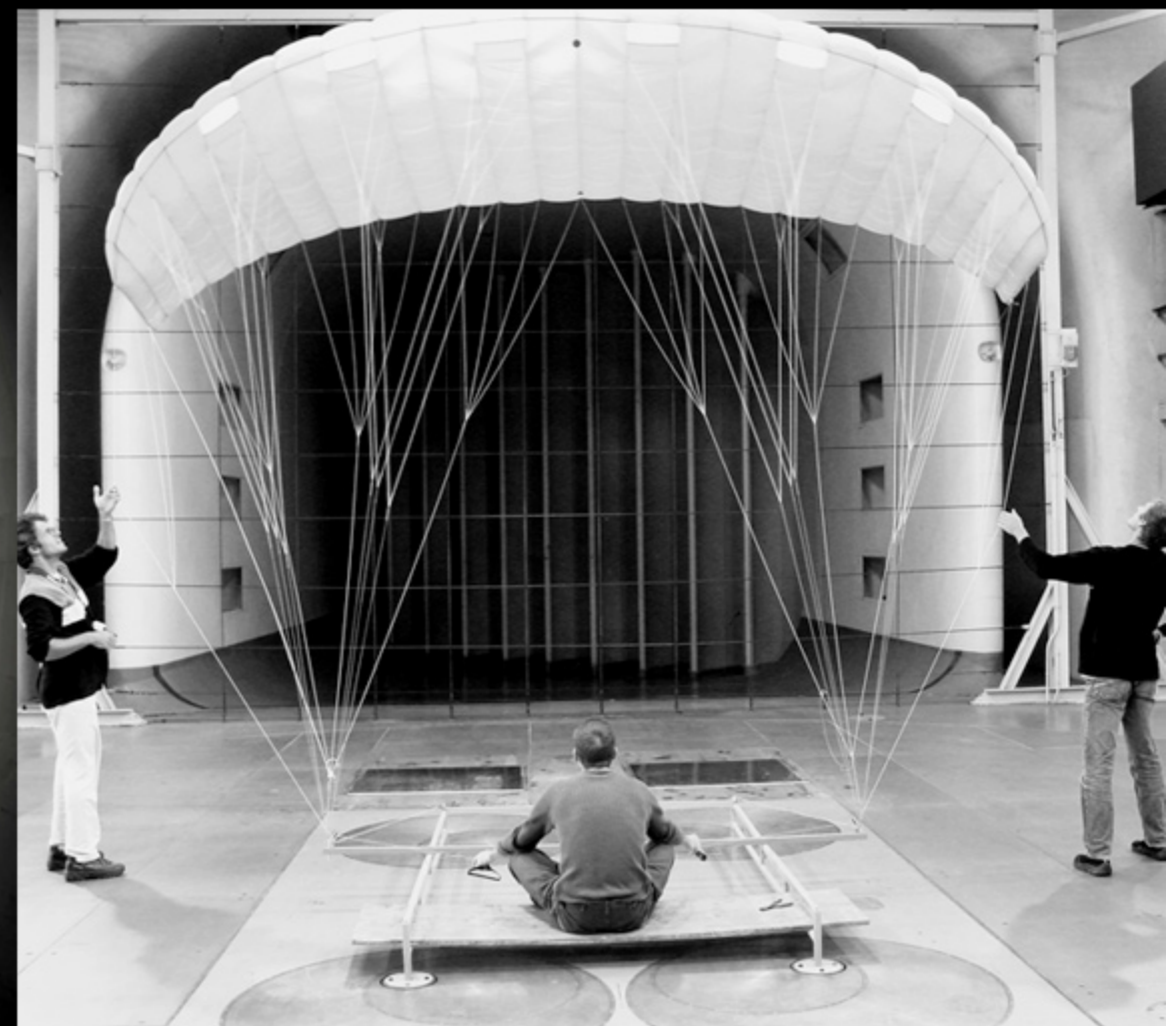
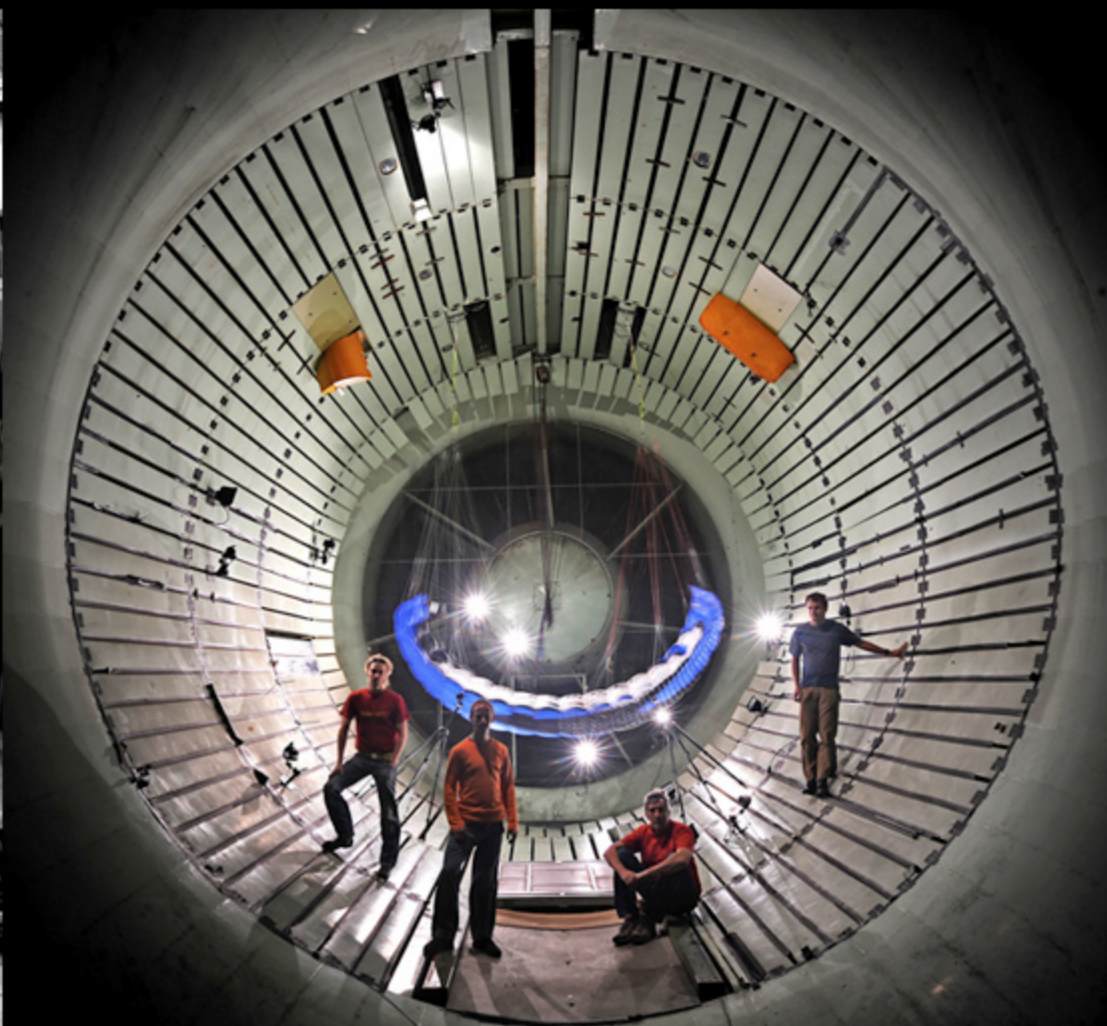
2001

2021



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**Congratulations on your 20-year celebration at FLYSURFER! What a journey. Where did the idea for FLYSURFER come from?**

Thank you very much, and indeed what a journey it's been. During my job interview in 2014, I first met one of the founders, Armin Harich.

He has a passion for watersports in the form of kayaking and flying in the German flatlands with a glider that he assembled himself. He explained everything to me. Simply put, FLYSURFER is an explanation of the sport itself. We still go kiting, but the initial vision was that people would go flysurfing. Armin has influenced the way I think about products. He is driven by the quest to create added value for

customers; he never stopped believing in this concept. Here we are now, 20 years later, a supplier of sports equipment for the Olympic Games, with a foil kite.

**Who was on the founding team, and what did each of them bring to the table?**

FLYSURFER's founders are Armin Harich, Ralf Grösel, Arne Wehrin, Manfred Kistler and Thomas Allertseder. Armin founded the brand with his colleague Ralf Grösel. At the same time, Arne Wehrin and Manfred Kistler started Paramarine. Back then, Thomas Allertseder produced lines. They met by chance at BOOT (a watersports trade fair) in Düsseldorf, and the conversation began.

Since they knew each other from paragliding and

were similarly motivated, they decided to found a joint company called "Skywalk GmbH". Their intention was to try new things and develop new systems in the foil kite area. The beauty of collaborating to build the future of a sport from scratch and save costs is what made it successful. It was a classic start-up.

**In 2001, what was your most exciting innovation?**

Good question! I asked the founders a while ago, and their answer was: "Our kites were flying, powerful, and you had at least the chance to relaunch them." Essentially, the innovation was that our kites kept floating for a while, and you had time to relaunch them. Our products were always known for their power, and that's why they are popular.

**Now, 20 years later, in 2021/2022, what has been the product or technical innovation you are most proud of?**

We have the most advanced kite to date, the VMG. It is a masterpiece that our kite designer Benni Boelli together with Theo de Ramecourt, Nico Landauer and Florian Gruber, have dedicated all their blood, sweat and tears to. It is as unique as our brand and a product that will allow young athletes to achieve their lifetime goals.

**It's been a long road in-between. Can you tell us about some of the most exciting points along the FLYSURFER development journey?**

There are so many, but I have to highlight the SOUL and Olly Bridge riding the kite. Together with Olly, we changed people's opinions about foil kites.

The PEAK has become a big seller for us, and you have to read my interview with Reinhart Paelinck, who pushed the single-skin kite development. It is probably the best freeride kite concept to date.


When we decided to enter the wing foiling market, we were already late to the party. But we managed to build a rock-solid wing, the MOJO, in no time. Maxi Kuehnhauser did a fantastic job and delivered a very powerful concept. If you get the chance, go and try the MOJO!

**Have there been any major mistakes or dark moments in the brand history? How did FLYSURFER as a team learn or recover from those?**

If you are pushing the limits, there are always setbacks. To name two painful topics, we had one of the first working inflatable SUPs and a click-in Quick-Release system almost ready around 2010.

**" I HAVE TO HIGHLIGHT THE SOUL AND OLLY BRIDGE RIDING THE KITE. TOGETHER WITH OLLY, WE CHANGED PEOPLE'S OPINIONS ABOUT FOIL KITES. "**





RIDER DANIELA MOROZ  
PHOTO STAN KEUSCH

**“ IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL TO BUILD THE BEST PRODUCT TO USE IN OUR OWN PLAYGROUND. ”**

Two paths we didn't follow, which could've been very impactful.

We invested heavily in lightweight materials at the wrong time, which is another missed opportunity. We have always recovered well from major setbacks, and that speaks for a healthy company and good risk management. Within our 20 years, there has been mainly harmony, even when everyone in the office is on their heels and giving it everything for all three of our brands.

**FLYSURFER has been a leader in light wind innovation from the start. How has the focus on this market guided the brand?**

A foil kite is simply superior in light wind. It wasn't a focus on purpose, just the given conditions we find in Bavaria (South Germany). It was only logical to build the best product to use in our own playground. In our opinion, every kiter should have at least one foil kite in their quiver to make their kite life more enjoyable and allow more opportunities to kite on water, land and snow.

**Is modern-day FLYSURFER strong wind friendly?**

For sure, it is! We have several products for when the storm calls you. Our new and upcoming project, the successor of the STOKE, will be what people want to see from FLYSURFER. But I don't want to spoil too much!

**The VMG has made headlines with its racing performance, and the new SOUL has stood out amongst the freeride community. Tell us more about how these products have achieved their current success!**

First, I have to thank our athletes and ambassadors, as well as our demo tour teams, for putting our kites in the hands of kilters around the world.





Our rebranding and the unique features of the SOUL simply hit at the right time, the hydrofoiling boom. It was the first time that a foil kite's power was easily accessible. It doesn't matter if you are good or bad at kiting; the SOUL is always fun to ride. I mean, it has everything you want! It is predictable, boosts, flies in no wind, goes upwind like a hot knife through butter, and you can take it everywhere.

The VMG, on the other hand, as stated before, was a challenge and took our athletes efforts to show the strength of the product. It operates in a wide range of wind. Max Maeder is only 15 years old and won the Youth Kite Foil World Championship in 2021. He has shown what kind of success is possible with this kite.

**At the start, FLYSURFER was about foil kites. When and why did you choose to add tube kites to the lineup?**

Market share! Haha, it is as easy as that. Our team's background also played a part. I used to ride C kites, and I love wave riding. If you look at our R&D team, it is clear that we love inflatable products, and our lineup will only get better with Luke McGillewie working on our inflatable design team.

**How have your design goals and your team evolved over the years?**

It was vital for us to establish a good product lineup, which covers every aspect of the sport and the specific riders needs. Now we are shifting our focus and optimising everything we can.

It is about selling a vision and backing it up with success. If you maintain a good spirit within the team and give young riders the chance to fulfil their dreams, everybody is striving for a common goal.



**" IF YOU MAINTAIN A GOOD SPIRIT WITHIN THE TEAM AND GIVE YOUNG RIDERS THE CHANCE TO FULFIL THEIR DREAMS, EVERYBODY IS STRIVING FOR A COMMON GOAL. "**





**" WE BUILD PRODUCTS FOR MAKING WIND-DRIVEN PEOPLE'S LIFE MORE ENJOYABLE. "**



RIDER ALINA SHALIN  
PHOTO MIRIAM JOANNA

We build products for making wind-driven people's life more enjoyable. We are open to anybody's ideas and inputs. Everyone is always welcome, and we are happy to share time with whoever approaches us. This is who we are.

The team has changed drastically in recent years, and we are a very young group of people in our mid-twenties and mid-thirties. Everybody is very dedicated, and we are proud to work for FLYSURFER. But don't worry, we are still innovators at heart. Expect the unexpected from us in the near future.

**Tell us about the phrase 'AHEAD OF ITS TIME'. How does it describe the brand?**

Open-minded, innovative and unique. Follow your own path and trust in your abilities. Don't be shy to fail, but learn from it and succeed with pride. We will change the paraglider world with a new system shortly. Check out [go-flare.com](http://go-flare.com) and become part of the future.

**What's coming up for FLYSURFER this year?**

Many happy faces and new additions to our rider roster! We will introduce a new product line, fresh looking control bars, an interesting story around our board graphics, and a new website. Stay tuned and join us on the road to the Olympics!

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

# TECH FOCUS

## SLINGSHOT PHANTASM FOILS

Q&A with Alex Fox

With one of the most expansive foil ranges in the industry, Slingshot has taken customising your ride to another level with the Phantasm line.

Alex Fox tells us all about the system, carbon vs aluminum, and how to choose the perfect setup in this Q&A!



RIDER FRED HOPE  
PHOTO KADEN SPONHAUER







**Hi Alex, thank you for taking the time to give us the low down on the Slingshot Phantasm Carbon Hydrofoil System! What is the overall concept of this system?**

The overall concept of the system is simple; offer the highest performing foils for any foiler in any sport. With that as the main focus, we also wanted to allow customers to custom-build their setup based on their sport, desired performance and price.

**Let's talk about the construction. What benefits does carbon offer over aluminum?**

Well, the main performance advantage of carbon over aluminum is the lack of weight. However, this comes at a price. The Phantasm system offers both

Aluminum and Carbon Masts. This allows riders to buy the system at a lower price than other premium foils on the market. This also gives riders the ability to add different masts to their foil quiver without breaking the bank. This is especially important if you are a foiler who likes to try different sports or lives in a location with shallow water.

Our carbon masts were in development for over two years. Tony Logosz experimented with so many different carbons and layups to achieve maximum stiffness. Right now, weight is top of mind for the consumer, but soon-enough "stiffness" will be the true metric of a carbon mast's performance. With more stiffness comes more control, more stability, and in turn, a more intuitive product. As riders progress

beyond the beginner stages of foiling in any sport, they will want the stiffest masts they can find.

**Are there any downsides?**

There really aren't many downsides to carbon in our sports and applications. It is lightweight, extremely stiff, and extremely durable.

**One system that can be adapted to work with kite, wing, sup, surf, and windsurf... did I miss any?!**

**How many possible combinations are there?**

The Phantasm platform has 12 lower combinations, 10 mast options, and 3 fuselage options. These options span across all sports and applications. There are countless possible combinations, and the goal is to ensure riders are able to build their foil setup based on their exact requirements.

**With so many options, it could get a bit overwhelming. Luckily, we're a kitesurfing publication! Can you give us the rundown on the top choices for kite foilers?**

For kite foilers, we have some amazing choices.

The PFI 633 is the top option for the majority of beginner and intermediate kites out there. It's smooth and predictable and is one of the easiest foils on the planet to ride and learn on. Our newest lower combination is the PTM 684. The PTM 684 shares some design heritage from our PFI 633 wing, except it has been unleashed. This means a little more speed and maneuverability while still giving riders plenty of lift and stability as they continue to progress. Beyond those two options, we have the PTM 730, PFH 657, and the PFH 581. These are both performance wings for more advanced foilers. The PTM 730 is rocket fast and super stable, whereas the PFH 657 and 581 are super quick but have pro-level maneuverability.

**If a rider needs help figuring out which combination to start with, what resources can they use to narrow down the decision?**

Our website has amazing resources to help you choose what foil is right for you. We also have our proprietary foil finder. This is a short online questionnaire that generates your perfect foil solution instantly after a few questions. This is an invaluable resource for the rider who is in-between foil options or is looking at Slingshot or foiling for the first time.



**" THIS IS A SHORT ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT GENERATES YOUR PERFECT FOIL SOLUTION INSTANTLY AFTER A FEW QUESTIONS. "**



**" OUR DESIGN TEAM THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING WHEN IT CAME TO THE PHANTASM RANGE. "**



RIDER FRED HOPE  
PHOTO ORESTIS ZOUIMPOS



Foils, especially carbon foils, can be an expensive investment. Are the new Phantasm foils compatible with previous Slingshot foil systems? Can a user upgrade bit by bit?

They are, and yes, the Phantasm Lowers are compatible with Hover Glide Masts. We have a Hover Glide to Phantasm adapter that allows the Hover Glide users out there to buy a Phantasm lower for a significantly lower price than a full setup. Also, we offer countless a la carte wings, stabilizers, masts, and fuselages that allow riders to upgrade the performance of their foil setup as they progress.

**Are the Phantasm foils travel-friendly? What sort of packaging or protection do they come with?**

They are incredibly travel friendly. Every Phantasm lower comes with a state of the art convenient carrying case that can easily be thrown in a board bag. Inside of the carrying case, all of the wings are protected by neoprene wing covers to further protect your setup. The masts also come complete with a padded protected sleeve. Our design team thought of everything when it came to the Phantasm range.

**For those that don't know, you started out as a pro kiter with some solid competitive accolades before taking on the role of Brand Manager of Slingshot. You're clearly a very talented foiler! Which Phantasm foils are in your quiver, and why?**

Haha! I was, a long time ago. I do foil rather often since I live in Florida, which is known for its lighter winds. I am pretty exclusive on the PTM 684 lower combination and the 92 Carbon Mast. This is a great setup for me. It has plenty of speed but also great maneuverability and stability. I foil with my dad all the time; he and I ride the exact same foil set up.



RIDER FRED HOPE  
PHOTO KADEN SPONHAUER

**" ONE OF THE MOST  
MODULAR, CUSTOMIZABLE  
AND PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN  
FOIL PLATFORMS EVER. "**

That shows the range of the PTM 684. It's a foil that I haven't outgrown yet, but it's friendly enough for my dad, who will turn 62 this year!

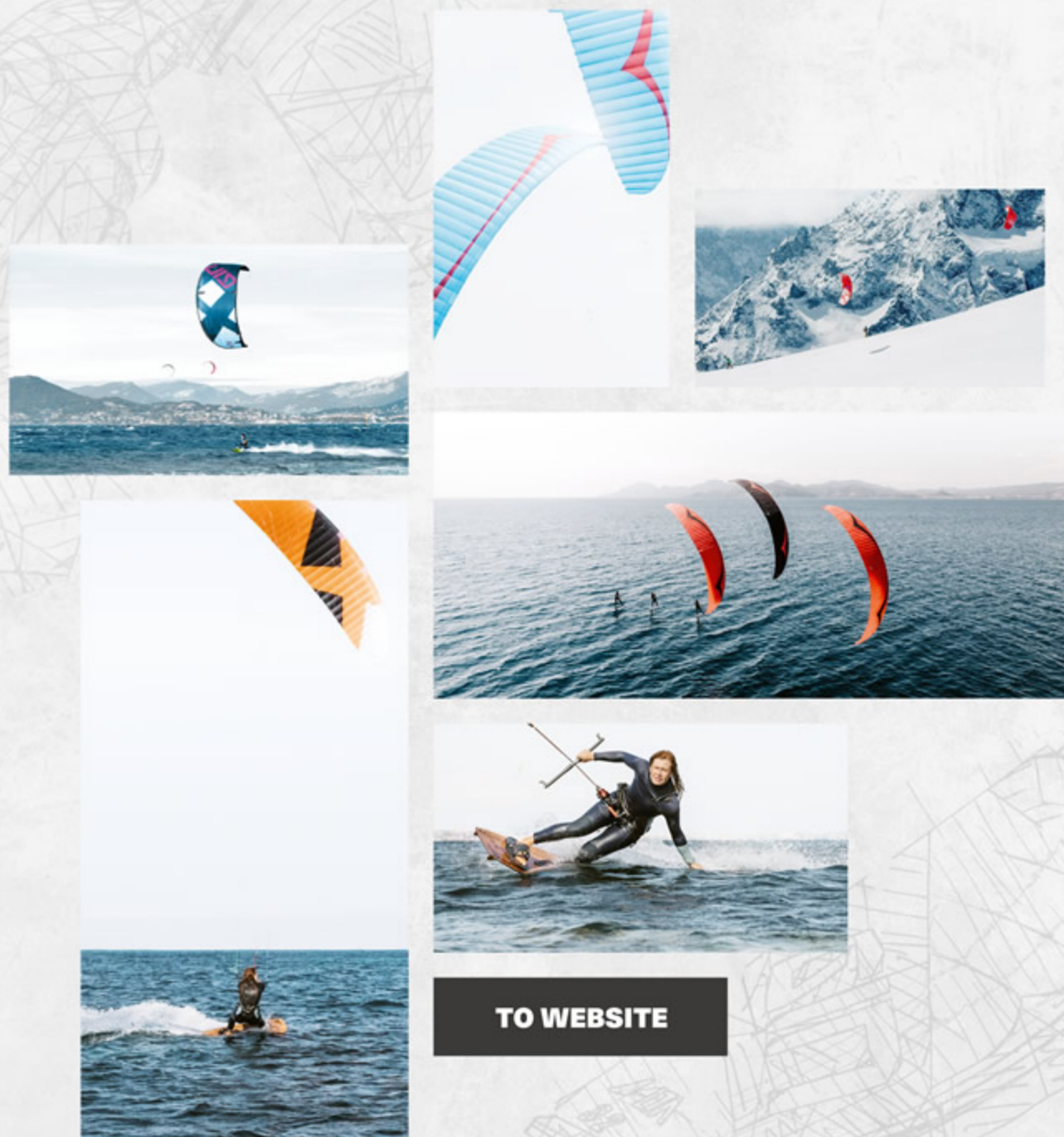
**"Designed by Slingshot. Built by You."  
Tell us a bit more about what that means!**

Our super talented team of designers have created one of the most modular, customizable and performance-driven foil platforms ever. It's up to you to custom build your setup based on your exact needs. Every single person has a unique need inside foiling. Your sport, skill level, conditions, location, and budget all determine what your setup should look like. The Phantasm foil range allows you to build your setup based on those needs.



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WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS  
PHOTOS JULIETA PEREYRA

# TECH FOCUS

## CORE PROTECTIVE GEAR

Q&A with Jan-Derek Kuster  
(Product Designer Accessories) and  
Phil Janke (Marketing & Communications)

For 2022, the team at CORE Kiteboarding has announced an exciting expansion to their product range! In this Q&A, we learn what inspired the new CORE Protective Gear lineup and what makes their products unique!



**" WE KNEW IT WAS TIME TO WIDEN THE PRODUCT RANGE IN ORDER TO OFFER OUR CUSTOMERS MORE SPECIFIED PRODUCTS "**



Congrats on the expansion of your accessories line! Gear bags are fairly new to the CORE family of products. I have to ask; what was the reason for holding out on producing gear bags for so long?!

Thanks, Crystal! It has been the root of CORE and one of our mission statements to invest all our energy in the "core" material of kitesurfing: kites, bars and boards. Nothing else. No fashion, no neoprene, no accessory gear and no sprawling model range. Why? To ensure our little product range is high in performance and quality and guarantee a perfect kitesurf experience for our customers.

Over the years, the sport evolved and became much more diverse. We knew it was time to widen the product range in order to offer our customers more specified products in whatever field of kitesurfing they would like to progress. When we introduced the CORE Foil SLC, it was evident that we needed transport and protection solutions for each part of it to ensure its performance and longevity during transport. The accessory line was born.

With our new accessory designer Jan-Derek Kuster on board, who brought immense expertise in the accessory segment to CORE, we decided to open the "Protective Gear" line for all transport and protection demands. And actually, we stand by our original mission. Because only with the perfect cover or bag for your beloved board or foil part can you ensure its longevity and high performance to enjoy many more perfect sessions.

" WE WANTED TO ACHIEVE BETTER ACCESSORIES REGARDING SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS "

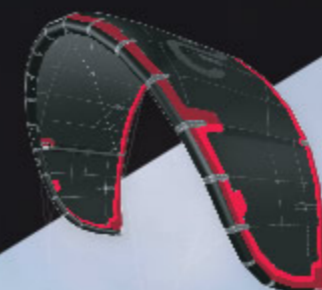


As loyal CORE customers know, quality is something you can count on in your products. How have the gear bag designers elevated the quality of the simple kite bag? What unique features do your bags include?

As with all CORE products, the key question behind our new protective gear line initially was what right of existence will every single new product have and what is the exact value we can add in this category. Jan-Derek identified a lot of potential in designing lighter, stronger and more refined accessories compared to most other bags on the market. We wanted to achieve better accessories regarding sustainability aspects with a decluttered design and exceptionally long-lasting materials and workmanship.

LIGHT AND TOUGH MULTI STEP  
LOAD FRAME CONSTRUCTION

Eleveight 



Rider: Arthur Gullebert  
Picture: Bruce Wotherspoon

# Xs

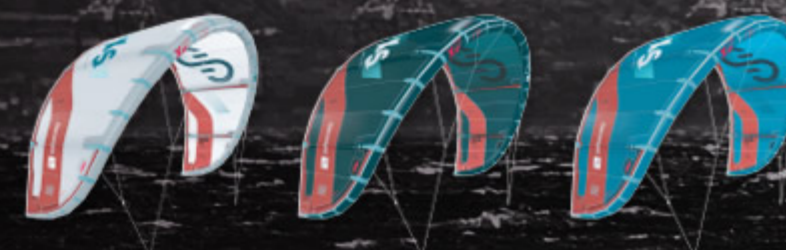
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**“ DEFECTS AND DAMAGES CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE SPEED AND GLIDE PERFORMANCE AND EVEN CAUSE STALLING. ”**

We only use 420den HD Nylon fabric. The high-density weaving with PU and DWR coatings is significantly stronger, lighter and more dirt resistant than conventional 600den Polyester fabrics. Fins, rails and transport stress are the crucial areas of bags and covers. With extremely robust reinforcements and 1000den texturised heavy-duty Nylon for extra-strong abrasion protection on bottom and corners, seams and webbing straps, we are convinced we have achieved the maximum.

**Two of the newest products to arrive are the Kite Foil Quiver Bag 140 and the Kite Foil Wingsuit 80, which we're sure the foiling community will be wanting to take a closer look at! For those just finding that foil addiction, why is it so important to**

**protect your hydrofoil? How much do dings and dents affect foil performance?**

Everyone who has tried a few different foil set-ups of the same kind knows how much they can differ from each other. Even two sets of the same model can show slight differences in certain aspects. Defects and damages can have a negative effect on the speed and glide performance and even cause stalling. The tips and trailing edge of the wings are extremely important for an undisturbed laminar flow and also for noise development - every foiler has experienced how annoying a whistling set-up can be.

**Let's talk about the Quiver Bag 140, designed for storing disassembled foils. That's a lot of compartments! Will this bag fit all foils in the CORE**

**CORE lineup? What is the capacity of the board compartment?**

Transporting and carrying foil set-ups, assembled or disassembled, is always a mission. We wanted to ease that and offer various solutions for protecting your foil on the way to or from the beach.

The Quiver Bag 140 is quite unique in its idea and function. With two separate compartments, one for a kite foil board and the other for the foil components, you have one convenient, perfectly padded bag for a complete kite foil set. In the foil compartment, you have velcro patches for attaching the optional CORE Foil Covers to protect each kite foil component. In the mast pocket, you have the option to store your mast even with a mounted base without damaging the board.



**" SO THE QUIVER BAG IS GOOD IN BOTH PROTECTING YOUR ASSEMBLED AND DISASSEMBLED KITE FOIL. "**



A long velcro opening at the tail of the board compartment allows keeping the mast and foil assembled mast. So the Quiver bag is good in both protecting your assembled and disassembled kite foil. It's big enough for all CORE Kite Foil components and boards up to ca. 140 x 51cm / 4'7" x 20".

**There's not much more stress-inducing to the travelling kiter than baggage fees and board damage! Is the Quiver Bag 140 travel friendly? Any recommendations on additional steps travellers can take to ensure their foil board arrives in one piece?**

Our CORE bags use significantly lighter and more tear-resistant materials than most other ordinary bags on the market. We have extremely robust reinforcements in all crucial areas, and our seams and webbing straps prevent ripping even when fully loaded. The bags feature 5mm PE foam padding plus extra-thick 10mm padding on the nose and tail. Simply add lightweight blister foil, your wetsuit, or a CORE Single Board Bag for extra flight protection.



## WE KEEP IT LIGHT

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**" THE GOAL WAS TO HAVE A QUICK AND EASY COVER OF THE FOIL "PLANE" WITHOUT NEEDING TO DISASSEMBLE THE MAST. "**

The Wingsuit 80, designed for storing assembled foil wings, looks like the perfect grab-and-go bag for the foiler that needs some added protection in the car on the way to the spot but still wants to get on the water ASAP! What features and functions did your designers prioritise in the design of this product?

Correct, the goal was to have a quick and easy cover of the foil "plane" without needing to disassemble the mast. You have full protection and rigidity due to solid 10mm foam padding plus surrounding webbing binding. Another feature is the super-robust premium YKK Racquet Coil zipper #10 with an extra big opening and grippy zipper pulls in a bright colour for easy access.

**Does the Wingsuit 80 fit all CORE foils? What is the maximum size foil it can accommodate?**

The Wingsuit 80 fits all CORE kite foils or other brands with a maximum size up to ca. 80cm/32" front wing, ca. 45cm/18" stabiliser, and ca. 85cm/34" fuselage.

**For Wingsuit 80 users, are there options in the CORE Protective Gear line to add a foil board bag or mast cover?**

Yes, sure! For the mast, choose the optional CORE Mast Cover 92 or 71. Your board is perfectly protected in the board compartment of the Quiverbag 140, and soon, there will also be a Single Board Bag Foil 4'5 " available in the range.

**Are there any more accessories to come from the team at CORE?!**

Nothing that we are ready to talk about! ;)



FORTALEZA



MANCORA



CABARETE



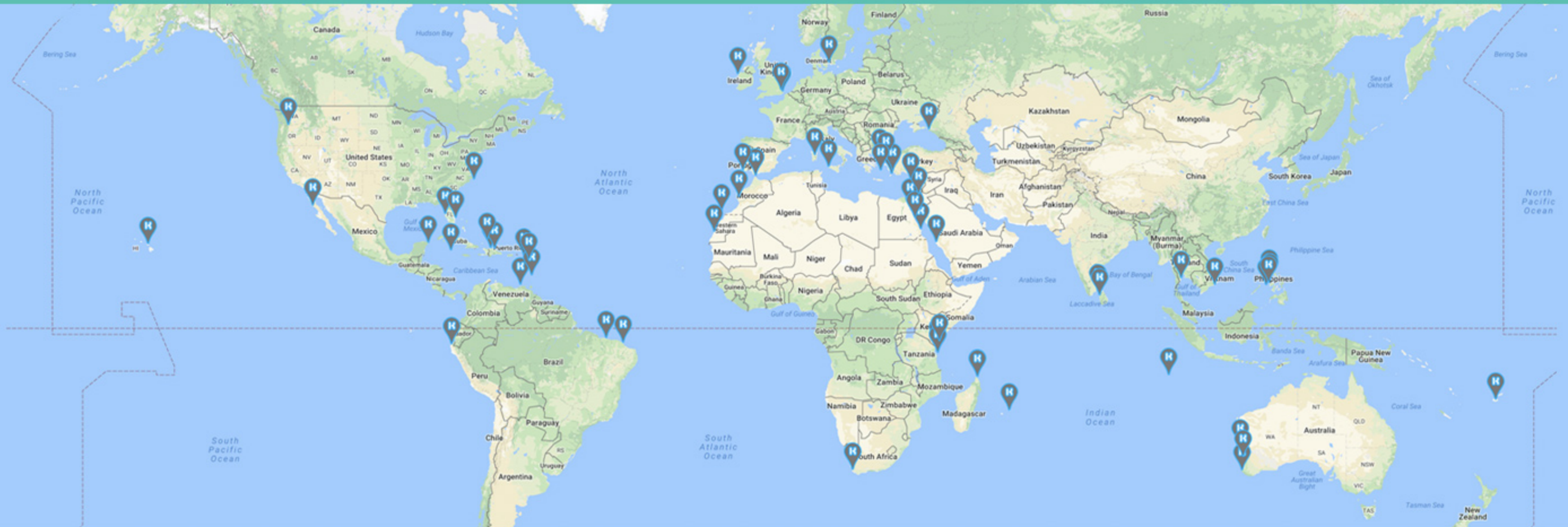
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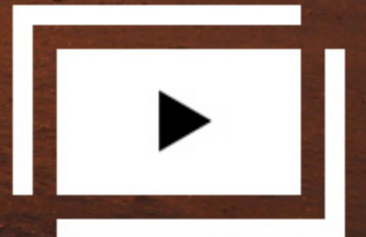
MAUI

WORDS KIM DOUMA PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS

It's hard to shoot a summer collection in European winter, so the Prolimit team headed to the Southern Hemisphere in search of summer! Sharks, snakes, and car troubles weren't enough to stop the team from making the most of Cape Town's windy season. Read all about their South African adventure in this exclusive article by trip leader Kim Douma!

# KAAPSTAAD

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PROLIMIT



Planning a summer collection shoot in winter poses a unique challenge, especially given current travel difficulties! We'd done all our recent shoots close to our home beaches in the Netherlands, but we needed sun when it came time to shoot the Prolimit summer collection. In addition, our design department is based in South Africa, making Cape Town the easy choice for our last-minute trip!

One week before the shoot, I arrived in Cape Town to organise and scout locations. It was my first time in South Africa, and I was beyond excited. When you hear people share their Cape Town experiences, it's always with so much enthusiasm. I understood why as soon as I arrived. Cape Town has everything you could want; a big city, beautiful beaches, mountains, wind and waves. It is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to, and I'm very jealous of my colleagues in Muizenberg. I wouldn't mind switching offices!

At Prolimit, we cover all disciplines in water sports with our products, so it's essential to have a variety of riders, each doing what they do best. Pablo Amores was our wave guy, and Stig Hoefnagel, Cohan van Dijk and Arthur Guillebert our big air stars. Arthur, who had just become the GKA Freestyle World Champion, would team up with Leo Verrecchia for the freestyle shoot. Unfortunately, with Covid restrictions and conflicting travel schedules, the women on our pro team weren't available, so we asked Ella Raeburn and Nicole Lambrecht to join the shoot. Completing the team were Linda van Lakwijk and Edwin Honsbeek from Prolimit HQ, photographer Samuel Cardenas, and videographer Floris Tils.



“CAPE TOWN HAS EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT; A BIG CITY, BEAUTIFUL BEACHES, MOUNTAINS, WIND AND WAVES.”



**“ WEATHER CONDITIONS VARY SIGNIFICANTLY ALONG THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST, SO PICKING SHOOT LOCATIONS WAS ALWAYS AN IMPORTANT DECISION. ”**

Immediately after we arrived, Red Bull gave the green light for King of the Air. That meant no time to rest for Arthur after his long trip from Brazil. Our French rider had a hectic start, but he still made it to the 2nd round. Stig was entirely focused on his first-ever KOTA appearance and was on fire

for the whole competition, taking out some big competitors and making it to the final. Placing 3rd in the KOTA is a colossal achievement, and we are so proud of him! I loved the event and having such an adrenaline-fuelled start to our trip!

Once the dust settled, we were ready to start shooting the Prolimit brand video. The weather conditions vary significantly along the South African coast, so picking shoot locations was always an important decision. We could look at the forecast, but local knowledge always

gave us the extra edge. Luckily, our colleagues Julia, Warren and Max live in Cape Town. Warren, our designer, would tell us where the best conditions would be based on the forecasts, and Julia would make a video report of the conditions in her spot every morning.

Freestyle was up first on day one of the shoot. Of course, the stars of our freestyle shoot were Arthur Guillebert and Leo Verrecchia! We piled into our VW Golf, dubbed Golfie, and got on the road to Langebaan. On the way, we were lucky to spot some wildlife. Leo and I had never seen giraffes and zebras outside a zoo before, so we were very excited!

RIDER ARTHUR GUILLEBERT

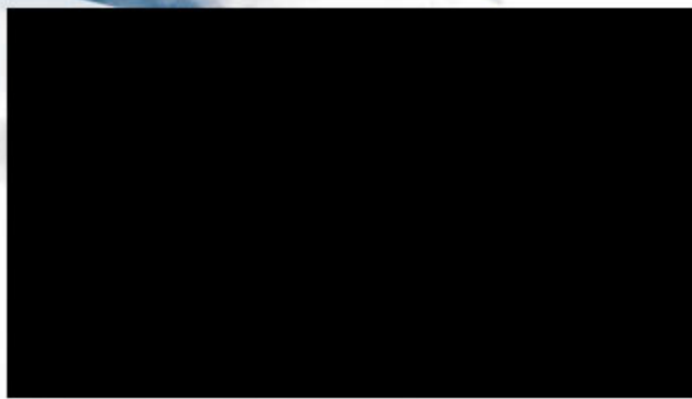


Our cameramen got straight to work when we arrived at the spot, capturing some epic freestyle angles.

On the way home, Golfie, unfortunately, stopped working. After a long day of filming, it was not a great situation to be in the dark on the roadside on an unfamiliar highway! We were stuck with smoke coming from the engine and the heat arrow in the red. Not being too mechanically minded, we did a quick Google search to see if we could continue driving an overheated car. The answer was a definite no.

" WE WERE STUCK WITH SMOKE COMING FROM THE ENGINE "

# KOALMA



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“ WE WERE ON THE WATER UNTIL SUNSET, WITH THE CAMERA CREW ON POINT AND CAPTURING SOME BEAUTIFUL CONTENT. ”

Luckily, a gas station nearby poured about 15 litres of water into the car. The last kilometres took forever because we were driving home at a snail's pace.

After the freestyle shoot, we didn't have much wind around Cape Town, so we decided to capture some stills of the new summer collection on the beautiful beaches of Witsand. It was also an excellent opportunity to shoot our SUP collection in these peaceful bays.

While we waited for the next windy days, we enjoyed the stunning scenery, delicious South African food, and, of course, some drinks! It was so much fun to spend this time together, getting to know the whole team. Not everyone on the team had met before, so this trip was the perfect opportunity to connect as a team.

When the wind finally came back, we went to Sunset Beach to shoot some action with Stig, Pablo and Arthur. The waiting game for the beautiful sunset and strong wind began. After a while, Samuel had to pee and decided to go into the bushes for some privacy. Suddenly, we heard a Spanish scream, and Samuel came out of the bushes claiming he'd seen a massive snake. Floris and Pablo didn't believe it and went to see for themselves. It turned out that there indeed was a huge snake in the bushes. I've never seen the guys so scared!

We noticed towards sunset that the wind was more consistent at the nearby Blouberg beach, so we packed up and headed upwind just in time to catch the perfect evening light. We were on the water until sunset, with the camera crew on point and capturing some beautiful content. We ended the day across the road at Jerry's for their famous burgers and beer.



RIDER ELLA RAEBURN



After another break in the wind, the forecast we were waiting for arrived. According to the locals, the next day would be THE day of the season with 3-metre waves and strong wind. We planned to be on the beach in Scarborough at 5:45 am. You should have seen everyone's faces when they realised they had to wake up at 5:00 am! Those expressions were nothing compared to the looks on their faces when we arrived at 5:45 am to find no waves at all.

“ THE FORECAST WE WERE WAITING FOR ARRIVED ”



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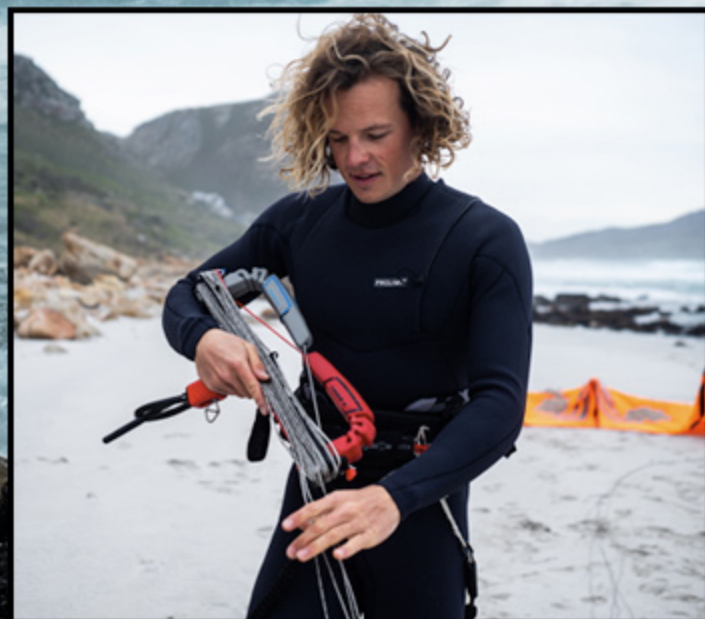
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Now, we can laugh about it, but at that moment, I felt so responsible and guilty for dragging the team out of bed. We were all there at the crack of dawn for 30 cm high waves. Pure disappointment!

Mother Nature rewards patience because as the morning developed, so did the waves. After taking a few shots at Scarborough, we moved down the bay to Witsand, where the conditions were wild! It was just as everyone predicted - maybe even better. Because we had arrived so early, we had the beach for ourselves for the first hours. The good conditions didn't go unnoticed for long. All the other pro riders started arriving at the spot, like a mini KOTA! Cohan was going crazy on his short lines, and Arthur did the sickest jump I had ever seen. Later, we saw it was more than 30 metres high. It was quite a show!

I laughed a lot about Samuel during the water shoots. He was already worried about the sharks in Cape Town before we got there. Linda and I tried to reassure him that sharks hadn't been spotted in Cape Town for a very long time. Still, the first time we saw a seal during the shoot, he panicked (but so did I, haha). Of course, if you're in the water without a board, I can imagine it's pretty scary. Luckily, Floris and Samuel could film in the sea together, so they didn't have to suffer alone! We heard the shark alarm in Muizenberg during a break between shoots and went to the balcony, where we actually saw a shark! After that, Samuel got even more scared about getting into the water. Luckily, we had already done all the water shots, so he didn't have to!

“ THE CONDITIONS WERE WILD! IT WAS JUST AS EVERYONE PREDICTED - MAYBE EVEN BETTER. ”







After three super intensive weeks, we were all super happy with the outcome. We learned a lot on that trip, including that seagulls do not appreciate drones. Every time we wanted to film a drone shot, the birds came from all sides. It was impossible to get a clean shot while dodging flocks of seagulls!

Another lesson was never to trust a Golfie! Pablo and Samuel's overheated near the airport, on a busy highway known to be a dangerous place. They called me for help and asked for advice. After trying to start the car another 50 times, it came back alive.

" IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A CLEAN SHOT WHILE DODGING FLOCKS OF SEAGULLS! "

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“ IT WAS A REALLY COOL EXPERIENCE FOR THE WHOLE TEAM AND AN AWESOME WAY TO END THE TRIP. ”

RIDER STIG HOEFNAGEL

On the last day, our colleagues from Cape Town organised a braai at the office in Muizenberg. Our designers were able to show the team riders how a product is designed and demonstrated how the 3D printer works. They had the chance to discuss new products, and the team riders could give their input and preferences. It was a really cool experience for the whole team and an awesome way to end the trip.

It was an incredible adventure with the Prolimit crew, and getting on the flight at the end of the trip was a sad moment. However, I've fallen in love with Cape Town, and I'll be back next year. I just won't take a Golfie!

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# TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE



KARINE AND CHRISTIAN

Crikey, we've been well and truly blessed with the most unseasonal weather, beautifully crisp mornings, warm days, blue skies and the most incredible stars at night. As much as this may sound like a January dream for many up here in the Northern hemisphere, it's also a kiter's nightmare. Whilst storms have been raging elsewhere, it's been gentle offshores for us since the lights went up on the tree! However, there's always something to be learnt and even though we've been meteorologically encouraged towards these moves for this issue, we're actually pretty sure that they'll give you plenty to work on and give you some solid foundations for next time. :)

So read on for the No Slide Turn and get ready for some Popping to Toeside.

Have fun. C&K.

**2022 clinic Calendar up on:**  
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## 1 / THE NO SLIDE TURN



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

## 2 / THE POP TO TOESIDE



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## THE NO SLIDE TURN ▶

We could have called this article something along the lines of "transition like a pro", or "turn around without losing any ground", but neither of those quite capture the character of this transition quite as well as the name we've plumped for. Having had a detailed look at the slide turn in our first CK'sentials and having been plagued by a complete lack of wind since the lights went up on the tree, we thought and have been meteorologically encouraged to move those skills on to their next logical and practical step. Practical, because there are so many situations in kiting when you want to turn without giving away any of your hard-fought ground. Whether the wind is light, you're desperate to get off the beach in onshore conditions, or you just want to practice and hone your kite and board skills, you'll have plenty to gain.

Previously we extolled the virtues of the Slide Turn Transition as much for what it leads onto as for its own benefits. Now we're going to rip up the instructions and go about it in the manner that was most likely giving you trouble in the first place, not sliding! This is also a fabulous move to learn, as it really forces you to concentrate on your stance and requires pinpoint kite skills, both of which will prepare you well for all the joys to come.

So how are you going to learn the No Slide Turn? The best way to think about this is in two halves, the way in and the way out. You have to get the first half dialled to be in with a chance of coming out without losing any ground. Let us start by looking at the



A

individual parts of each half so that you can then splice them together...

### APPROACH PIC A

What you're after throughout this transition is tension. In your lines, through you and into the board. With tension, you'll be able to feel when and where you need to adjust, whether it's how much power or pull you need from the kite or how much power you need to release in order to achieve what you want. From start to finish, it's all about tension, so it should come as no surprise that you'll need tension on your approach. The other point is that as you are intending to change direction, you'll need to slow down whilst keeping tension. In essence, this is a balancing act between power and tension. This means edging on your approach is paramount. Make sure you're resisting



B

with your legs, driving against the board, keeping your entire body taut. Much more achievable when you start with your kite no higher than 11 or 1 o'clock. This way, you can slow down by easing the bar out, bit by bit, without changing your position. Once you've got your speed under control, you can steer your kite slowly up. You can see that Karine has plenty of her edge in the water, both legs are driving the board away from her, and she's drifting the kite up. Note that she's looking forwards, not at her kite.

### CONTROL THE POWER PIC B

As the kite rises, it will generate lift. You, however, need to keep resisting. The temptation is to sit low, but if you do, there's a possibility that you'll compromise your edge. To counter the lift from the kite, you can ease the bar out a tad more.





This isn't a must though and will depend on whether the lift is too much for you to control. You're aiming to get the kite past 12 o'clock but in the most controlled of manners. Keep looking where you're going, and be aware that effort is required to edge. Looking at the pic, you can see that Karine has eased her bar out. She's still drifting the kite slowly but is very much edging forward.

#### KEEP THE KITE MOVING PIC C

As long as you can keep your edge, you can keep the kite moving. Your aim is to get it past 12 o'clock so that it's "pointing" back the other way. This has two

advantages. Firstly, once the kite moves into the other side of the window, it will act as a brake, think parachute behind a drag racer (with perhaps a touch less speed). Secondly, once it stops you, it's your cue to go back the other way. Now, this is where you are tearing up the rule book. If you were slide turning, you'd be thinking about moving your weight forward and sliding the back of the board. However, you need to override your muscle memory and keep tension in the lines and tension through your board and focus on edging forwards. You can see in the pic that as the kite moves further up, Karine is still driving against her edge.



#### YOUR CUE PIC D

Right on time. As soon as the kite goes past 12, it'll stop you. If you keep stiff against your edge and pull the bar in for some support, the kite will pull you against your edge and therefore lift you up over the board. This is the last part of the first half. You've stopped, and you've used the last puff of power in the kite to keep yourself up. In the pic, you can see that Karine's edge is still in, but she's pulled the bar in to get that lift. It's also worth noting that her bar is still steering the kite; she hasn't levelled her bar as she doesn't want the kite to stop.



### THE CHANGE PIC E

And this is the result. With your kite moving slowly across the window, an edge held against it, and you pulling the bar in. Yup, up and over the board. Before we get too excited and apologies for repeating ourselves, do ponder this balance of power against edge. Power can be passive when you're super powered up or on a large kite, or it can be generated by moving the kite; the quicker you move it, the more power it generates, and of course, a combo of these two. If, however, you don't slow down, the result will

be more jump like. Ok, back to the now. Once you're up, turn your head to look back where you want to go. Karine is definitely looking back the other way.

### DIVE PIC F

Now that you've got your bearings, there's only one thing for it, drop the clutch and give it some beans. Making sure that you shift your hips back over what will be your new rear foot, you can twist your shoulders to look upwind and dive the kite to accelerate back from whence you came. Make sure you keep your weight on your heels and look upwind.



How hard you dive your kite will depend on the conditions and position of your kite. Your aim is not to get hauled off downwind but to edge off across the wind. It would be a great shame to undo all the good work you did to get here without sliding. You can see that Karine has shifted her weight back, opened up to look upwind and is diving the kite to go back the other way. Notice how she hasn't been overly aggressive with her steering on the bar. The reason, her kite is relatively high, and she's on a big kite with loads of lift.

## BACK ON IT PIC G

Et voila! Once the kite pulls, you can drop your weight, resist and drive against your edge. If you haven't got much speed, stay on your edge and work your kite. You'll soon generate some power and forward drive.

## TOP TIPS

This really is something that will hone your kite skills and is so worth practising. Without a doubt, it'll be less difficult when you have power, but with repetition, you'll soon enough have it down on any kite. The funny thing with the No Slide Transition is that it's about doing very little, very well. Edge control and balancing your power whilst feeling where your kite is. The end result, it'll improve so many aspects of your kiting as well as giving you a super-efficient method of changing direction.

As you progress, you can play with the speed that you steer the kite. Less power will require a more dynamic approach, whilst with power, you'll almost be trying not to take off if you want the tightest of turns, and you may need to momentarily stop moving the kite before diving it.

Have a look at the sequence to see all the steps married together, and then check out the video to see it in real-time.

## COMMON PROBLEMS

The main problem is allowing your muscle memory to take you through this like a slide turn. So, ponder the difference. A slide turn is all about slowing down, changing your weight, keeping low, sliding and then moving your kite. Here it's all about edging to control speed and moving the kite across, nothing else. In principle, it's simple, but in practice, it's a whole new world.





Sitting too low and therefore needing a big, downwind pulling dive to get going. Keep resisting the entire time, and don't be afraid to be bullied by the kite. Use your bar to control power, but keep your core and legs stiff.

Staying up but still needing too big a dive. You've taken your kite too far across the window. Only take it to 12:30 or 11:30, any lower, and you just can't get the power from the dive.

Getting air! If you're taking off and getting unceremoniously dumped onto your side, it's a sure sign that you're sending the kite. It's about drifting it up and across, be more gentle with your steering and sheet in or out to control the lift.

#### KEYSTONES

1. Approach with tension
2. Slow down by sheeting out incrementally

3. Steer kite slowly across the window
4. Edge until kite slows you
5. Stay up, turn and dive



## THE POP TO TOESIDE ▶

Having had a good look at how to fix your toeside in the last issue, it seems sensible to move on whilst making the most of your newly polished skills. And there is no better way to enjoy your twin tip toeside experience than popping to get there! Now, if the idea of popping sends shivers down your spine, or if you don't know what popping is, fear not. The most splendid irony of popping to toeside is that you don't need to be able to pop yet to try this, and it is, in fact, one of the best ways to introduce yourself to popping.

OK, so if you don't know what popping is, it's a general term used in kiting methodology that means getting the board off the water without using the kite to jump or a ramp to launch you. It's the kiting equivalent of an Ollie or Bunny Hop. The beauty is that whilst concentrating on getting your board and fins momentarily off the water, with the intention of switching to toeside, most kilters find the pop less problematic than if they were to focus solely on the art of popping itself.

Before moving on, we should mention three things. Firstly, to pop to toeside, you only need to get a few centimetres off the water for a fraction of a second. If you free your fins, that's enough; no daylight necessary. Secondly, popping is about using the edge of your board, stamping and corking. It's not about trying to lift the board off the water, but rather kick it against the water so that it bounces back up and off it. Thirdly, you already know how to slide to toeside, you've got the t-shirt, it's in the bag, so there'll be



plenty of muscle memory helping you along the way. So, let's have a butchers at what you need to do...

### THE APPROACH PIC A

First job is to get everything into the best possible position from which to start the process. We've already mentioned that you'll be using your edge, so that's the best place to start, on a decent edge. No need to be grimacing with your bum skimming the surface and the world flashing by in a blur, just happily riding slightly upwind. If you park your kite around the 11 or 1 o'clock mark, you'll have something to resist against. Make sure that you can happily reach the bar with both hands. You can actually try this with either two hands on the bar, or one. However, you need to be in control, able to sheet out if needed and ride toeside



once you've switched, so trim the bar in a touch, if it's already a stretch. You can see that Karine has both hands on the bar, she's on an edge but not racing at Mach 10 or pointing as high as possible, and her kite is around 11 o'clock. That said, she's still resisting with both legs strong.

### STAND UP PIC B

Your next job is to change direction a little bit. You want to flatten off your board just a touch, relaxing your edge. You should be able to do this because you are already standing tall. If you're low, you'll have to make a bigger movement, which is still possible. The reason you flatten the board is so that it turns away from the wind. This will allow you to then carve back into the wind without stopping. Karine has relaxed her edge,



standing up over the board whilst still keeping her weight on her heels. Note how her hips stay back as per normal so that her back leg is slightly more flexed than her front leg. All the while, she's keeping her bar on the sweet spot. You can see that Karine has already taken her front hand off the bar in preparation for toeside. If you have read the feature on polishing your toeside, you'll know all about the big hand.

#### THE CARVE PIC C

There's no need for thoughts of grandeur, plumes of spray or radical effort. Your aim here is to carve back onto your edge. The idea is that as

you turn back upwind and away from the kite, you will put tension back on the lines and through your edge, building up energy so that you can pop. To turn the board, drop your bum a bit and push through your heels as you look where you want to go. Think of it as getting back onto your edge. The trick here is that it's a short moment, from flat back to edge. As soon as you're back on your edge, it's time for the next step. You can see that Karine has dropped her weight and turned the board back onto its edge, putting tension into the lines and resistance through her board. Really important, her bar is still on the sweet spot.

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RIDER ELIAS OUAHMID  
PHOTO LEO DREES



Resist the urge to pull in for tension; you're turning for tension. This way, you can keep your shoulders upright rather than leaning them away from the kite.

#### THE POP PIC D

Realistically we should call it the stamp, as that's exactly what you do, stamp down with your back foot. This action of suddenly extending your back leg and kicking down through your heel forces the board against the tension of the water created by edging, and pops you up. It's all about extension, straightening your whole body, through your core and down into your heels. Although your front leg

will also extend, your effort should be through your back leg. The timing of this is surprisingly quick, from standing and levelling, once you commit to carving upwind, it's literally carve and stamp, as quick as you can say it. Once again, if you look at Karine, she's lifting off with her board in a wheely position. This is the result of her weight and hips being towards her back foot. Her back leg is fully extended, kicking down hard, and the result is she's popping! Last point, her bar is still on the sweet spot, she hasn't used it. Pulling on it won't actually help and will prove to be spectacularly counterproductive.



#### KEEP GOING PIC E

We'll start this step by looking at Karine. You can see that she's over her board and therefore balanced, and her board is pointing upwind. These are a result of the pop. By carving upwind, the board turns, so once you're in the air, the board is pointing slightly up. Now, if you were going for a slide to toeside on the surface, your board would also be turning up. This is where muscle memory comes in handy. If you think toeside, you'll start to lift your back knee through, just as Karine is here. This is a movement you've done plenty of times before, so tap into it. It's the air guitar to your switch to toeside.



### THE SWITCH PIC F

Once your knee is coming through, it's a matter of committing your lower body to do the work. Keep your shoulders and head up so that your weight remains balanced over the board, and bring your back foot through. This will lift the "new" nose of the board and allow the tail of the board to touch down first. There's no need to turn all the way onto an edge; you just need to get the board through enough that you are toeside, even if it's riding downwind. The great news is that as you don't have to get all the way back onto your edge, you really don't need any height. Looking at the angle that Karine is landing and the angle at which she popped off, she hasn't had to turn the board far.



### TIDY UP PIC G

Once your board is back on the wet stuff, you can think about getting back on an edge. Keep your hips open and move your weight forwards so that you can get some pressure down through your front foot. From here on, you can flex your ankles, drive your knees across the board and edge back upwind! Or how about carving back to heel side whilst throwing buckets? If you look at the pic, Karine is now sorting herself out, ready to get back on an edge. Big hand is still leading the way, and her bar is still out on the sweet spot, as it has been throughout the move.

### TOP TIPS

To learn anything, it's always less challenging if you're

comfortable. Find some flattish water, give yourself some space and make sure that you've enough power that you're not having to work the kite, but also not so much that you're taken for a walk by your burly inflatable friend.

To make life easier on your first attempts, you can inch the kite up a tad higher. It may make the edging a little bit more tricky, but you'll feel some support from the kite as you stamp, and it'll give you a tiny bit more time to switch. However, it doesn't want to get anywhere near midday! Any lower than 11 or 1, and it'll be very difficult to learn.

Once you've nailed this, you can happily try to go edge to edge with a low pop or try popping more aggressively for more height.





Now have a look at the two-handed sequence but take note that Karine does release her front hand for landing. And check out the video for the full run-through.

### COMMON PROBLEMS

The first and most likely problem is that you'll lose all your speed and therefore won't be able to pop the board. This is the result of your carve. The reason you slow or stop is that you've carved too far. To sort this, make sure that you stand up on your approach and don't wait for something to happen; you need to make it happen. As soon as you carve back onto your edge – pop.

If you find that you're catching your edge in the water and can't stamp against the board. This is a result of pulling the bar in. When you pull it in, the power will lift you over the board, and as a result, you can't stamp down on your heel. Make sure you keep your bar on the sweet spot. If you need some help, put the kite higher.

### KEYSTONES

1. Moderate edge and kite just above 11 or 1.
2. Stand up and flatten board.
3. Carve and stamp.
4. Extend up.
5. Bring leg through.

All of the above with bar on the sweet spot!!!





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THE INTERVIEW

# CHARLES BRODEL

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS PHOTOS ANA CATARINA

There must be something in the water in France, a country that boasts an impressive roster of incredibly talented kites. One who has caught the eye of the industry is kite foil master Charles Brodel! With a one-of-a-kind riding style and a KiteFoil Freestyle World Championship in the bag, this 23-year-old rider has a bright career ahead. In 'The Interview', Crystal Veness asks Charles about his riding background, perspective on kite foiling, gear of choice, and what makes his style so unique!



“ I USED TO HANG OUT ON THE SPOTS WATCHING THE KITERS, AND, ONE DAY, A FRIEND OF MY PARENTS OFFERED TO LEND ME HIS EQUIPMENT! ”



Charles, thanks for joining us for 'The Interview'! We are super excited to learn more about you and your unique kiting style. Let's start at the beginning; tell us a bit about growing up in France and how you got into kiteboarding!

I spent most of my childhood in the North of France. My parents come from a rather rural background and were not at all part of the water sports culture. At the age of 11, we moved to the Opal Coast, where I immediately found a passion for the sea.

One day, while walking on the beach with my parents, I saw someone kitesurfing for the first time. Seeing the kitesurfers jumping with those giant kites fascinated me, but my family didn't have the means to put me into it. So, a little bit out of spite, I started windsurfing. I used to hang out on the spots watching the kites, and, one day, a friend of my parents offered to lend me his equipment! On the water, I got hooked right away, but strangely enough, I quickly lost interest. So I turned to land kiting (mountainboarding), where the sensations of speed and adrenaline were crazy!

**After spending most of your time kiting on land, was it difficult transitioning back to kiting on water?**

Switching from one element to another can indeed seem confusing. For me, the transition was simple. I would even say that the opposite would have been much harder. On the sand, mistakes are unforgiving. Falls and crashes can be very painful. I developed a habit of visualisation, mentally practising each step and each movement of the kite to improve my chance of landing it. With this habit, all the tricks I knew on sand seemed easy to transfer to the water. It may sound pretentious, but it's true; I had very little fear.

“ USING A FOIL WITH A RAM AIR KITE IS THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO GO VERY FAST AND VERY HIGH, EVEN WITH POOR WIND CONDITIONS. ”



**What drew you to the world of kite foiling? And how did that evolve into Kitefoil Freestyle and Big Air?**

In 2016, I moved to Dunkerque to study, hoping to continue practising sailing sports. I approached the "Pole Espoir of Dunkerque", an athletic club that could help support my development. Unfortunately, the beach there is too narrow for mountainboarding, so I started to kite again. I was getting frustrated on the twin tip, but I tested a foil from one of my friends one day, which was the trigger. I started to foil race with the "Pole Espoir of Dunkerque" and trained frequently for two years. But soon, once again,

I began to get bored and slowed down my practice a bit. I guess it's a trait of my personality; I always need to try new things.

In 2019, I took up kite foiling again. In the past few years, brands had developed more products for recreational kite foiling, and that's when I started to jump. I immediately felt the potential of this sport and continued more and more in the direction of airstyle. Jumping gave me the feeling I was searching for in wind sports. It may sound crazy, but my goal now is to spend more time in the air than in the water and try to go higher and higher with

more and more commitment!

**Foil kites and boards seem to be your weapon of choice! Was it always that way, or did you start kiting on different types of equipment?**

I started with an inflatable kite but quickly changed to a ram air (foil) kite. Using a foil with a ram air kite is the most efficient way to go very fast and very high, even with poor wind conditions. I'm a big fan of the F-ONE Halo, which I find has almost the same manoeuvrability as an inflatable kite but with much higher lift and hang time - and that's a must for my riding style.

**Your unique riding style has clearly stood out and impressed the kite industry! How did your sponsorship with F-ONE come about?**

I started with Youride, an F-ONE equipment dealer in the North of France. The store manager saw me sailing and immediately felt I had potential, even with my slightly outdated equipment. He wanted to help by lending me newer gear so I could continue to progress. It was great to see that someone trusted me and believed in my abilities. I spent all my spare time on the water, practising new tricks. Little by little, I started to be known on the spot, and my style was getting noticed.


The following summer, I went sailing in the South of France near Montpellier. At the end of one of my sessions, someone approached me while I was putting my lines away; he was impressed with what he had just seen and asked me many questions about my feeling about the equipment. A week later, F-ONE contacted me. The person I met on the beach that day was none other than Raphaël Salles! Being spotted like that by the brand seemed unreal to me.

**How does F-ONE support your professional kitesurfing career, and what role do your other sponsors like Manera and Aneo play?**

F-ONE provides me with high-quality equipment like kites, boards, and foils. They finance some of my projects, such as competitions and shoots, and overall allow me to continuously progress in my sport. Apart from that, a real relationship has developed with the brand. Since moving to the South this year, I have spent more time with Raph and the R&D department; they listen to my feedback and desires, which is very rewarding.

“ LITTLE BY LITTLE, I STARTED TO BE KNOWN ON THE SPOT, AND MY STYLE WAS GETTING NOTICED. ”





" THE POWER AND MANOEUVRABILITY OFFER HIGH SPEEDS AND RECORD-BREAKING HANGTIME, PRECISELY WHAT I NEED FOR MY AERIAL PRACTICE. "

Manera equips me with the suits and accessories I need, and their products are always innovative and comfortable. Finally, Anéo, a firm specialising in digital transformation, contacted me after the Lords of Tram. They give me extra financial support so that I can live from my passion.

**Which kites and boards are currently in your quiver? What kind of conditions would lead you to take an inflatable kite out over a ram air kite?**

I always have my 10m and 15m Halo (ram air kite) with me wherever I go. The power and manoeuvrability offer high speeds and record-breaking hangtime, precisely what I need for my aerial practice. As soon as the wind gets too strong, I use the Bandit XV (7m or 9m). My go-to board is the Pocket Carbon in 120 cm, which is compact and perfect for rotations. It is light and rigid, which gives me good support and precise control of the foil. My favourite foil is the Escape Carbon 530, which offers a fast glide, excellent handling and stability on my landings.

**Tell us a bit more about the new Bandit XV! Are you using this for Kitefoil Freestyle? What makes it work well for that style of riding?**

The new Bandit XV is the best big air kite I've used. It is very manoeuvrable and precise; the feeling in the bar allows you to fly it without concentrating on where it is in the window, which makes it easier to perform committed tricks. The hangtime has also improved considerably, allowing me to do tricks that previously I could only do with a ram air kite.



“ THE NEW BANDIT XV IS THE BEST BIG AIR KITE I'VE USED. IT IS VERY MANOEUVRABLE AND PRECISE; THE FEELING IN THE BAR ALLOWS YOU TO FLY IT WITHOUT CONCENTRATING ON WHERE IT IS IN THE WINDOW, WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO PERFORM COMMITTED TRICKS. ”

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" I LANDED ALL MY TRICKS DURING EACH HEAT, NO MATTER HOW GUSTY OR WINDY IT WAS. "



**Congrats on winning the first-ever GKA World Kitefoil Freestyle Championship! There were some tough competitors in Brazil; what tricks do you think set you apart from the rest?**

During the competition and especially the final, I did several "world's first" in competition tricks, including ones I invented like the Brodel Flip and the One Foot Fuselage Grab. I think what made the difference with the other riders was my consistency. I landed all my tricks during each heat, no matter how gusty or windy it was. But for that to be possible, I trained in gusty winds to be prepared for difficult

wind conditions like we had in Fortaleza. The other reason, I think, is the commitment of my ride; I go faster and higher than the others. It's dangerous, but it's my style, and I think it makes the difference because, visually, it is impressive.

**Have you ever had any crashes or injuries in competition or training? What steps do you take to ensure your safety and that of other kites around you?**

I don't want to say I'm lucky because I'm aware of the dangers and careful, but I've never had any significant injuries, just big falls. I cut myself a few times with

my foil, especially when I invented the Brodel Flip because I didn't know how to take the foil and make it turn. Now that it has become my signature trick, I do it without thinking but in the beginning, to visualise and accomplish it without getting hurt was a challenge. I had a crash just before leaving for the World Championships, where I was afraid I wouldn't be ready for the competition. It was a very windy day where I fell hard after doing a kitemanoeuvre. To reduce risk, I always wear a helmet and pay attention to the distance to the beach and especially others on the water.

**How do you think your riding style can impact the world of kite foiling?**

I think that my riding style can show that kite foiling is not only a sport for light wind or racing, but that you can do many things with a foil! The big point of this sport is that you can practice from 6 to 45 knots, no matter the water surface (waves, flat, choppy). With the foil, everything becomes a superb playground. Now that I practice freestyle kitefoil, I'm always happy with my sessions, no matter the conditions. For my part, I decided to combine speed, big air and airstyle! The feeling of doing tricks at high speeds is just exceptional!

**For the kite foilers out there that are a bit nervous about spreading their wings and flying, what advice can you give on how to get some air?**

Foiling can open up new horizons for you, but it can indeed be dangerous. Always think carefully before you jump. It is very easy to cut yourself or another person with your foil. You have to protect yourself and others and go through step by step as you learn, not progress too fast. I think visualising is the most efficient tool in my progression. When I want to do the trick, before practising it, I envision it in my head, hand placement, kite and feet movements, etc.; this allows me to understand the movements I will have to make and know if I will succeed.

**" I DECIDED TO COMBINE SPEED, BIG AIR AND AIRSTYLE! THE FEELING OF DOING TRICKS AT HIGH SPEEDS IS JUST EXCEPTIONAL! "**



" I HAVE RECENTLY STARTED WINGFOILING AND SURF FOILING, AND I HOPE TO CONTINUE TO PROGRESS IN THESE TWO DISCIPLINES. "



**What do you have planned for 2022?! Any exciting projects on the go or trips on the calendar?**

I have a lot of trips planned with F-ONE for competitions and shoots. I have recently started wingfoiling and surf foiling, and I hope to continue to progress in these two disciplines. I'm even thinking of joining the GWA Wing Tour in addition to the GKA Kitefoil Freestyle. I also plan to make a video submission for the King of the Air 2022, where I hope to be the first rider selected on kitefoil!

**We're excited to see what 2022 brings for you! Thanks, Charles!**

Thanks, Crystal!



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**DO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WANT TO LEARN TO KITE?**

# On The Fly

## RACE REPORT // AXEL MAZELLA

French kitefoil racer and Ozone team rider Axel Mazella just had a stellar 2021 season, winning the KiteFoil World Series and the Formula Kite European title, both for the third time. The 24-year-old was also just pipped into second place for the coveted Formula Kite World Championship crown by French team-mate Théo de Ramecourt. On a two-month winter break to the south Pacific island of Tahiti, French Polynesia, to rest and recharge, Mazella took time out to talk to Ian MacKinnon about his coming year, the building pressure of the Paris 2024 Olympics, and what he does to switch off.



**Ian:** 2021 was a big year for you, winning the KiteFoil World Series, the Formula Kite Europeans, and taking the second podium step at the Formula Kite Worlds. Which are you most pleased about?

**Axel:** I'm super-happy about my season. It's my best season so far. I never did that before, winning the KFWS and finishing second at the Worlds. For me, it was a big accomplishment. There was a lot of work beforehand to prepare for all the events. Now, also, kitefoil racing is bigger and bigger and so tight. It's not like it was at the beginning of the sport where you could win all the races at an event. It's become like a real sailing sport: you can finish one race first, then fifth, then tenth. So it's really intense. I can't complain about my results, because in all the events this year I made the podium. So it's definitely my best season of racing. I'm super-happy.



## On The Fly

# RACE REPORT // AXEL MAZELLA

Now I know what I have to work on for the next year. I have a lot of strong guys in front of me, like Théo de Ramecourt, first and foremost. But we are great friends too, that's why we're travelling together and spent a lot of the year together. But still, I know what I have to work on for the coming 2022 season. Trying to win the Formula Kite World Championship is the top priority because it's the only one I haven't won so far.

**I: What are your goals for the 2022 season?**

**A:** That's easy: a European title, the fourth in a row. But most of all, to win the Formula Kite World Championship because it's the biggest event of the season for everyone, especially the French sailing federation [FFV]. We have to have good results to get support from the federation. It's the most important event for everyone, so we really have to be ready. I will mostly focus on the Europeans and the Worlds this year and go to the World Series events if they're not too close to others.

**I: Now, in 2022, we're just two-and-a-half years from the Paris 2024 Olympics and kitefoil racing's debut. Does being a home Games put even more pressure on you?**

**A:** No doubt, and it will come round very quickly. In 2022 we will start to have qualifiers for the Olympics. We start to have more and more pressure from the federation. We already have a lot of support, but they expect good results from us from the Games because it's our home Olympics, and the French government wants a lot of medals in 2024. Yes, it's more pressure, especially for me because the sailing events will be in Marseille, which is a one-hour drive from my home. If I participate in these Olympics, I will have all my family and friends supporting me, which is super-good for motivation.

But playing at home, you have to stay really focused on what you have to do and not crack under pressure.

**I: How do you switch off and recharge for the challenges ahead?**

**A:** That's what I'm doing here, right now in Tahiti. It's really important for me in the wintertime to do something other than kitefoiling. For two reasons: by the end of the season, we are super-tired, not bored, but there are many races during the season, and I know I have to do something different because my body has to be ready for next year. Also, I need this time to rebuild my mind for the new plan and get more motivation. Even during the season, I have to take some time to rest, especially before a big event. I really enjoy spending time with my family. We're always travelling the world so much, so it's good to get time to see them. So I go to my family house and enjoy spending time with my cousins, parents, grandparents, and brothers. And if I've got the conditions for flying, I'll go flying. And surfing too, if the conditions are right. I really love surfing.

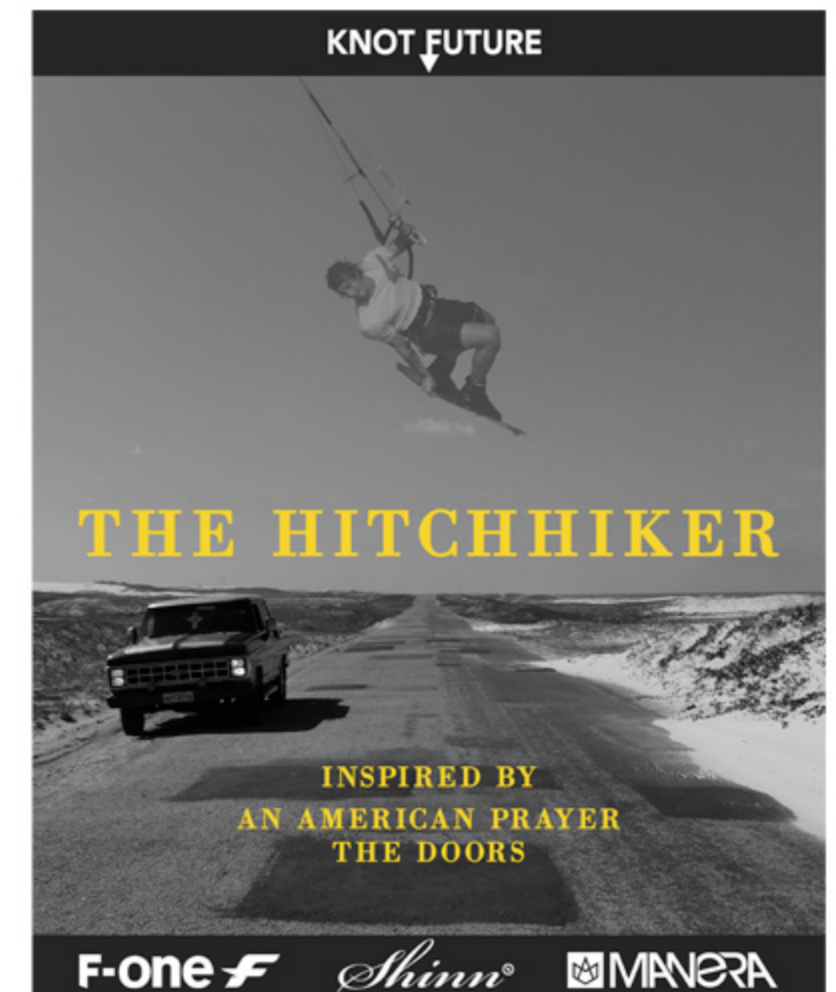
**Learn more about Axel, his role at Ozone, and his other athletic pursuits in the full interview on our website!**



*On The Fly*

## MOVIE PREMIERE // "THE HITCHHIKER"

Creativity and kiteboarding meet in "The Hitchhiker", presented by Knot Future. A short film with a story, kiter Marek Rowiński and filmmaker Aleksander Lewandowski team up to bring this creative concept to life. Unlike your average Brazilian freestyle edit, "The Hitchhiker" started with a script, taking inspiration from the album An American Prayer. Marek and Aleksander went to Brazil with a plan, spending a few weeks battling light wind and camera malfunctions, but still managing to gather each shot they needed to tell their story. Ready to see the final result of this creative project? Press play to watch "The Hitchhiker".





## LIEUWE // CREATING CUSTOM

What goes into creating a Lieuwe custom board? In this Q&A, we chat with artist Jenny Lloyd, the creator of the new Paradise Series, to find out all about the process!



RIDER RODERICK PIJS  
PHOTO SAM ABEN

**Jenny, tell us a bit about yourself and your background!**

I'm an artist and designer from the UK, now happily based in beautiful Amsterdam. I originally trained and worked for over fifteen years as an illustrator and graphic designer. However, more recently, I was encouraged by my enduring obsession with visual culture to start integrating collage into my portfolio – one of the most fun, rewarding developments of my creative career so far. I love to create artworks featuring natural forms, fine detail, colour and light.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



On The Fly



## RIDE ENGINE // LEFT OF NOWHERE

Alongside the release of the Ride Engine 2022 product line is their new brand video, Left of Nowhere. Gary Siskar, Global Brand Manager, brought the team to one of his favourite places in the world, the magical north of Peru.



"We were able to fan out and search beyond the "known" spots for epic conditions for kitesurfing, kiteboarding, wing surfing, and windsurfing. What we discovered is that being in the middle of nowhere is the perfect place for being somewhere special." The Ride Engine range features accessories for watermen and waterwomen to pursue their waterborne passions at the highest level. Learn more at [ridengine.com](https://ridengine.com).





## On The Fly

# SNOWKITING // SENSI GRAVES

I'm not going to sugar-coat it--chasing a snowkite session is hard work. Often you arrive at the spot hours early to wait for the wind to fill in. Rigging is strenuous, especially if you're on a snowboard (sinking up to your knees is **HARD**), your fingers get cold, and it's hard even to fit your harness around all your jackets. But there's something to riding in snow that gets me every single time.

I love kiteboarding for about 50,000 reasons, not the least of which is the fact that you can experience so many different disciplines, ride in new locations and keep it fresh. Doing something new is stimulating and draws you into the present. Because I can count the numbers of great snow-kiting sessions I've experienced on two hands, kiteboarding in the snow really does that for me. So when Jennie Milton asked if I could coach at her all-women snow kite camp, I immediately said yes. We drove 10 hours from Hood River to Idaho to get that fix.

There's less resistance when you're snowkiting, so you can ride in much less wind. The feeling you get when you glide over untracked powder, being pulled by your kite, is unparalleled. Add to that the ability to pull yourself up the mountain, ride over new and fun terrain and session natural features, and kiting on snow is a new and exciting discipline. Our camp got three days of wind in a row, and we took full advantage of it--riding over sagebrush, sessioning a snow-covered "wave", and slashing powder in front of our cameraman. Despite the cold, the exhaustion and the effort it takes, snowkiting might just be one of my new favourite things.



*On The Fly*

## CATCHING UP // CAPUCINE DELANNOY

We've had great freestyle conditions so far this year in Prea, Brazil! The wind picked up on the day these photos were taken, and I went out for a long session with my brothers. It was a great day to kite - the sun was shining, the wind was consistent, and we had a lot of fun on the water!



PHOTOS RAYNALD DELANNOY

The strapless kite loop is a trick that took me a long time to land perfectly, and not only when I was being lucky! With this trick, the most important thing is to not be scared. The more you pull on the bar the better it is, because the loop will go faster and the landing will be easier.

I'm training with the North Comp 2022, a board that allows me to improve my tricks, making them higher and more consistent each session. The feel is totally different from the previous version, with the board being half the volume. My 4'10 has only 10L of volume, so I have way more control in the air due to its lightweight. I'm currently focusing on my strapless freestyle skills before we go to a wavy spot. See you next time!

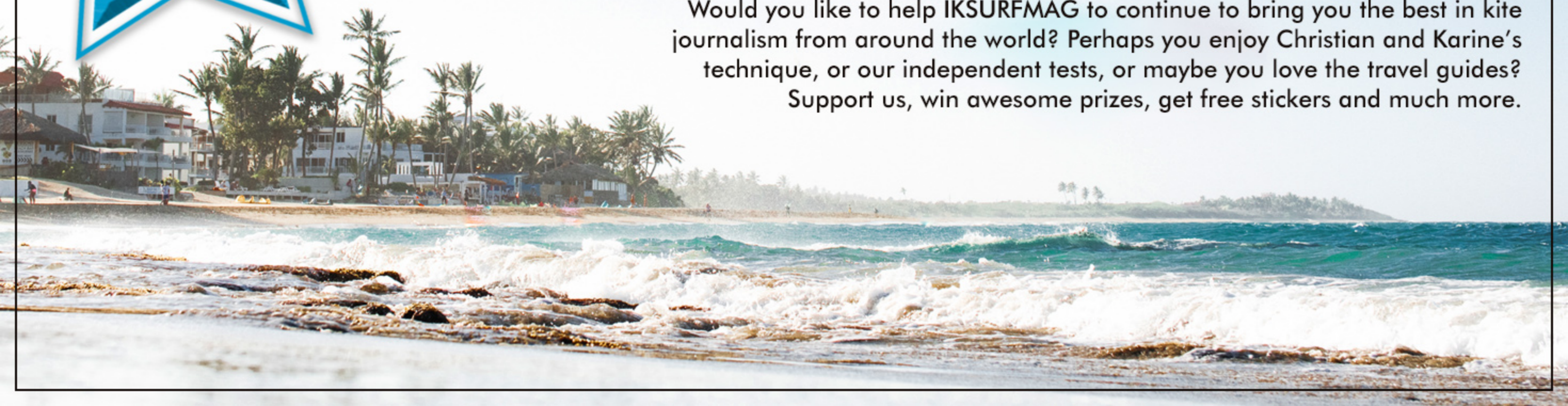
RIDER CARLITO MARTINEZ  
PHOTO KITESHOOTER

# BECOME A SUPPORTER

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Would you like to help IKSURFMAG to continue to bring you the best in kite journalism from around the world? Perhaps you enjoy Christian and Karine's technique, or our independent tests, or maybe you love the travel guides? Support us, win awesome prizes, get free stickers and much more.



# TRIED & TESTED



The wind has been a bit finicky in the early part of 2022, both in the UK, where windy days have been few and far between, and South Africa, where the forecast has seriously lacked its usual consistency. It's a good thing we got our hands on some foil kites, with light-wind efficiency that were the session savers we needed! Find out what we thought of the latest kites from Airwave and FLYSURFER as well as new models from Core and Harlem. Keep reading for a side-by-side test of two new North twin tips, and some of the hottest harness tech to hit the market!

## KITES

Core XR7

Airwave Koala

Harlem Go V5

FLYSURFER Soul V2

## BOARDS

North Trace

North Atmos

DUOTONE Whip D/LAB

## HARNESSES

Ride Engine Lyte

Ion Sol Curv 11

AK Carbon Aerobar

BRAND CORE

MODEL XR7

SIZE 8M

YEAR 2021



“ EXCEPTIONAL  
BIG AIR  
PERFORMANCE  
WITH THE ADDED  
BONUS OF  
ALL-AROUND  
FREERIDE  
PROGRESSION ”



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS,  
CLICK [HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE,  
CLICK [HERE](#)

#### AT A GLANCE

Core has done something exceptional with the XR. Earlier models of this game-changing 5-strut design have already catapulted big air kites to another level, so it's hard to imagine that improving on a winner is even possible. That said, the XR7 does just that.

There are very few kites on the market that can match the XR7 in its big air performance. We probably don't even need to write this review because it's almost certain that you have an opinion on this kite just by what you've already heard and seen.

The success of the riders that use this as their go-to kite speaks for itself. Take a look at the Woo leaderboards, big air podiums, and riders like Janek Grzegorzewski, who make the XR7 look like it can give you superpowers. However, we are still not quite sure what planet Janek is from, so it's not really fair to compare ourselves as mere mortals to the likes of Super Janek.

Let's talk facts. It's a medium/high aspect delta bow 5-strut kite with durable construction in the classic and timeless Core black and white with a pop of colour

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND AIRWAVE

MODEL KOALA

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2021



"A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE FOIL KITE MARKET!"



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



#### AT A GLANCE

Airwave has a long history of producing products that show a true passion for flying. In the '80s, they made their first hang gliders before starting Airwave Paragliders. Now, the team has tapped into their skills and knowledge in aerospace engineering to design and release the Koala, a ram air foil kite.

The Koala is a stable, lightweight foil kite that can be used on water, snow, or land, and it does each very well. Airwave uses its very own ALULA virtual simulation software to make significant advancements in testing. This ALULA software has allowed the Airwave team to make more than 200 virtual prototypes, demonstrating just how much thought has gone into this quiver! This kite has been designed from scratch, and after numerous tests, they've produced something which theoretically can replace your L.E.I. quiver. If you've been up in the air with what kite to choose, this could be the answer!

Each size has been specially designed and trimmed to give the rider precise handling and bar pressure. The canopy features three sliced diagonal strips meaning the tension of the canopy remains firm,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND HARLEM

MODEL GO V5

SIZE 8M

YEAR 2021



"A GET-UP-AND-GO KITE THAT WILL TAKE YOU FROM LESSONS TO CRUISING UP AND DOWN THE BEACH TO TRICKS AND BIG AIRS."



#### AT A GLANCE

The Go has been Harlem's quintessential all-around kite since the start. Harlem calls it their high-performance all-rounder, designed for your everyday session and able to do just about everything you need it to... except get you beers! The most successful kite in the Harlem range, the recently released Go V5 is the best yet.

Harlem has always done things a little differently from the 'big brands' and is an exciting young brand with a fresh approach. They're not looking to release the trendiest colours or modern graphics; Harlem is purely focused on making durable kites that perform well.

Our UK testers did a review on the Harlem V4 back in 2020, but our first ride on this model was the Harlem Go V3 back in 2018. That kite was a solid performer and a clear representation of Harlem's goals - bomb-proof construction that comes from the company's foundation in kite repairs. The early models looked like they could literally handle a bomb going off! What we first noticed taking the V5 out of the bag was that Harlem has found a wonderful middle ground,

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BRAND FLYSURFER

MODEL SOUL 2ND EDITION

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2021



" BEING SUCH A LIGHTWEIGHT KITE, IT FLIES IN NEAR TO NO WIND AND GETS YOU ON THE WATER WHEN THOSE DAYS FOR AN L.E.I. KITE MIGHT NOT. "



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



#### AT A GLANCE

When it comes to foil kites, FLYSURFER is known for performance. The SOUL, first released in 2018, was packed full of performance features that make kiting feel effortless. It earned its reputation as a kite that provided riders with precise control and fantastic bar feedback, making it a genuinely forgiving and very user-friendly foil kite. The newly released 2nd edition of the SOUL, which hit the market in 2021, sees FLYSURFER make some modifications that give this kite an even better feeling when on the water.

TX-Light Hardfinish fabric is used throughout the construction of this kite, providing extremely high tear resistance and great ageing resistance whilst also being very stiff, helping the kite keep its shape. The leading edge consists of DLX+ Fabric which helps protect this area from sharp objects and abrasion... great for those that have a local beach that isn't sandy! Both of these materials are super light, more like something you'd see in a paraglider than a kite. Experienced foil kites - or soft kite riders - might be familiar with this high-tech fabric, but those coming from the inflatables side of kiting might be surprised and impressed.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)





"A FANTASTIC BOARD FOR BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE RIDERS WHO WANT A BOARD THAT WILL GIVE THEM A PLATFORM TO ENHANCE THEIR KITING SKILLS."



**BRAND** NORTH  
**SIZE** 145 X 45

**MODEL** TRACE  
**YEAR** 2022

#### AT A GLANCE

As North continues to develop and add more products to its range for 2022, we see a new twin tip addition that joins the family, the North Trace. The Trace is all about light wind and free ride blasting. On those light wind days, having the option to take out a bigger board can really change your session for the better. The North Trace does this while packing in plenty of quality design features, making the performance on the water quite remarkable!

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



"THE ATMOS HAS AN EFFICIENT POP AND RELEASE FROM THOSE KICKERS TO SEND IT TO THE MOON!"



**BRAND** NORTH  
**SIZE** 138 X 41

**MODEL** ATMOS  
**YEAR** 2022

#### AT A GLANCE

North's most popular high-performance board returns for another year with some lovely new features and bold graphics while still following suit with two different construction builds. The Atmos is built around all things Big Air and Freeride and paired with the all-new Orbit. As Marc Jacobs has recently shown, it's a match made in heaven proven to take you to new heights.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)

BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL WHIP D/LAB 5'3"

YEAR 2022



"THE ULTIMATE SWISS ARMY KNIFE, THE WHIP D/LAB CAN SHRED A WIDE VARIETY OF WAVES WITH FEW LIMITATIONS"



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



#### AT A GLANCE

The Duotone Whip has been a staple in their lineup for so long now it's hard to think of a time without it. Over the years, it has undergone many changes, but the same basic design principles remain. The board is a compact design, meaning a stubby nose and tail. This offers a few advantages; it feels snappier on the wave and cuts down on weight. In addition, the longer drawn out rails offer plenty of grip in the turns.

Of course, it makes it a decent size for travelling, and this is one of my favourite boards to take on a kite trip. It's designed to be a very competent all-rounder that can handle a myriad of conditions and wave sizes. The aggressive channels underneath remain for 2022 with the big news being the D/LAB moniker and what that means for the board.

D/LAB is the name given to the top end products coming out of Duotone right now; it is used across the range on products where only the highest end materials are used to develop high-performance products. On the Whip, this means a new Reflex Memory Foam Shock Absorber.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND RIDE ENGINE

MODEL LYTE XS

YEAR 2022



"THE LYTE IMPRESSED WITH ITS COMFORTABLE RIDE, SHARP STYLING, LOW-PROFILE DESIGN, AND INNOVATIVE MATERIALS."



#### AT A GLANCE

Ride Engine has made some big leaps and bounds in harness designs in the past few years. From the early days of customised one-of-a-kind oven-baked hard shell harnesses to the popular carbon Elite production model hard shell, Ride Engine has been a trusted provider of harness comfort from the beginning.

With the more recent introductions of the composite Sabre harness and the softer Momentum, there have been some exciting innovations happening behind the scenes at Ride Engine. So, when we heard there was another new model about to drop, we were stoked to give it a go.

On test today is the brand-new Ride Engine Lyte, taking lightweight harness design to another level. The Lyte Curv material is lightweight but also high tensile, meaning you get the Ride Engine signature shape with the supportive lumbar lock, which has become a favourite in the industry for staying where it belongs and not twisting on the body. The foam padding is known as cell-lock, thermoformed closed-cell foam, which doesn't take on water, so it stays light, even after your session.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)

BRAND ION

MODEL SOL CURV 11 XS

YEAR 2021



"IT'S WELL-DESIGNED AND SUPREMELY COMFORTABLE, MAKING EACH SESSION THAT MUCH BETTER!"



#### AT A GLANCE

One of the smallest and least costly pieces of kit in your quiver, the harness can make or break your session. A good quality, well-fit harness can be the difference between coming off the water smiling from ear to ear or crawling up the beach with an aching back. Ion products are firmly on the smiling side of that scenario. When it comes to harness quality, Ion is at the top of their game!

Their extensive harness collection features models that cater to each and every preference and style of riding, with a whole index of flex levels so kilters can pick the perfect harness for them. The Ion Sol Curv 11 is a women's harness featuring Ion's revolutionary CURV material. So, what does the 11 mean? Ion classifies the flex level of their Curv harnesses; a flex index of 20 would be super stiff, and 1 would be super soft, so an 11 out of 20 means that it's almost bang in the middle, which should be a crowd pleaser!

There is a lot that goes into designing an ergonomic harness. Kiting can be quite a high-impact sport, and because it's a relatively young sport, it's hard to know exactly what the long term impact of a kite pulling you from the waist can do.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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" FOR THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL-FRIENDLY SETUP, THE CARBON AEROBAR + THE ETHER HARNESS GETS A GOLD MEDAL FROM US. "



AT A GLANCE

Creativity knows no limits over at AK Durable Supply Co! We got our hands on the just-released AK Carbon AeroBar, a spreader bar that is without a doubt a revolutionary piece of harness technology. One might wonder, how and where is there more room to upgrade the simple spreader bar?! Well, we're not sure, but the crew at AK has definitely done it.

The Carbon AeroBar system is simple, maybe one of the simplest spreader bars on the market and certainly one of the most innovative. You'll find the motion familiar if you've ever used an aeroplane seatbelt. Speaking of aeroplanes, it's a super travel-friendly piece of tech. One, because it's small and compact, but mainly because of how quick it is to remove your spreader bar from your harness. There will be no 'reassembly' process at your final destination; you simply click out and then click back in.

I'm a sucker for well-designed branding and packaging, so I will admit that I already have a minor AK Durable Supply Co. bias. That said, I can hardly be blamed as their designs and packaging are simple and stunning.

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TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, [CLICK HERE](#)



*Lightroom*

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

LIGHTROOM

PAULINO PEREIRA SCORES SOME SWELL ON THE NEW OZONE REO V6  
PHOTO RICARDO PINTO

*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

FOLLOWING IN HIS UNCLE'S FOOTSTEPS, HENDRICK LOPES IS LOOKING  
VERY COMFORTABLE AT HIS HOMESPOT OF PONTA PRETA  
PHOTO ISHOOTUSURFPHOTO



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

ALINA KORNELLI STYLES IT OUT IN FLÜELA PASS'S WINTER WONDERLAND  
PHOTO LUKAS STILLER

*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

DR VIBES WITH LILOO FOURRÉ - CHECK OUT THE COLOUR OF THAT WATER!  
PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

LUKAS PITSCH RIDES UP MOUNTAINS IN THIS EPIC REMOTELY  
CAPTURED PHOTO IN JULIERPASS, SWITZERLAND  
PHOTO LUKAS PITSCH



*Lightroom*



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

GRANT CLAYTON SCORING GOLD AT BARASSIE BEACH, TROON  
PHOTO COLLIEIMAGES



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LIGHTROOM

RAMIRO GALLART SHOWING EFFORTLESS STYLE IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE  
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

CHECK OUT MAREK ROWINSKI JR. RIDING  
IN THE UNIQUE SCENERY OF TENERIFE!  
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK



*Lightroom*



# NEVER-ENDING LOVE VAN LIFE IN TARIFA

WORDS ROOSI NATALI NÕGISTO  
PHOTOS MADIS PÕDRA AND  
ROOSI NATALI NÕGISTO

The love of kitesurfing inspires people to do some "weird" things, but it takes a fellow kitesurfer to understand that "weird" is the only way to live. Rooski and Madis, hailing from Estonia, were more than ready for an escape, and they had their sights set 5,000km away on the promised land of Tarifa. Did they find the escape they were looking for? Find out in this exclusive article!





**“ ALL YEAR ROUND MEANS THAT WE'RE OFTEN SNOWKITING OR RIDING IN FREEZING CONDITIONS! ”**

The story starts a little over two years ago when we decided to divest ourselves of most of our material possessions and move into a van - not just for a weekend getaway, but indefinitely. It may seem like a crazy decision, and we certainly heard our fair share of questions and comments about our "weird" lifestyle, but to us, it made all the

sense in the world. Join us for some insights into the adventurous roller-coaster that is our life in a van!

There are three main characters in this story; Behind the keyboard is Roosi (that's me), my partner in crime, Madis, and, last but not least, our van life-loving dog, Luna. We are writing from Europe's kitesurf capital of Tarifa, where we've been van life-ing for a few months. So how did we get here? And what was our driving force in choosing to live in a tiny home on wheels?

We'll take you back to where these adventurous roots first sprouted. We come from Estonia, a place not known for kitesurfing or its van life culture. Luckily, we found these two incredible passions, and we're happy to see that their popularity is growing amongst the people of Estonia. Kitesurfers are a big reason our country's van life culture is growing!

Our nature at home is breathtaking. We have lovely kitesurf spots, and we can session all year round. Of course, all year round means that we're often snowkiting or riding in freezing conditions! We only have three months of warm weather every summer,



**“ WE NO LONGER HAVE TO CHASE WIND ALL AROUND ESTONIA WITH THE RISK OF GETTING SKUNKED BECAUSE EVERYWHERE WE DRIVE, WE ARE AT HOME.”**

and that's if we're lucky. When it comes to the wind, we wish we had more. We can go months without a good windy day, which is just what happened this past summer. We did, however, enjoy some strong wind in spring, but we still pray to the wind gods daily.

When you're going months without wind and only dreaming of the next session, you start going a little crazy, or maybe you get extra creative! So, Madis and his partner Andreas took on a personal mission: introducing kitesurfing to Estonians by starting a surf club, school, and shop called No Work Surf Club. Their hard "work" - which we don't consider work since we want to do it with all our hearts - has paid off, and we now have many ambitious kites in Estonia, and our community continues to grow.

No Work Surf Club and the rather chilly weather in Estonia were two things that inspired this idea of having a kite van and eventually moving into said van. Now that the van is decked out, it's hard to imagine dealing with the earlier inconveniences of kiting, like not being able to have a hot shower immediately afterwards. Also, we no longer have to chase wind all around Estonia with the risk of getting skunked because everywhere we drive, we are at home.

Our van is entirely handcrafted by Madis and was designed to be the ideal kitesurfing companion, with an ample, ventilated space for our kitesurfing gear. The interior has a surfy, beachy vibe that makes us feel at home in an environment that matches our chosen lifestyle. The van is our home, and we love it.

**“ IT'S A COMPLETE PACKAGE; BEAUTIFUL, FULL OF NATURE, AND A COASTAL CITY FILLED WITH LIKE-MINDED, AWESOME PEOPLE. ”**

So why did we choose Tarifa as our primary road trip destination for this year? It's simple; it's reasonably close to Estonia if you consider that 5,000 km is close. Mostly, it's that it's a windy kitesurfers paradise, and our time here has been a dream. Tarifa has so much to offer, with excellent kiting and van life infrastructure. Many accommodation options are kitesurfer friendly and will make you feel at home, even if you're not in a house on wheels! It's a complete package; beautiful, full of nature, and a coastal city filled with like-minded, awesome people.

It's also a place that allows us to grow as kitesurfers. Tarifa is full of amazing riders, and seeing them in action is a major source of motivation for us. We push ourselves harder by sharing the water with so many talented people.

We were in this paradise late enough in the season to be able to ride at Balneario, a famous big air spot with mainly side-offshore wind and the Isla de Las Palomas with the immediately recognisable Punta de Tarifa lighthouse in the backdrop. It's graced many magazine covers and been the site of some of the most epic big air sessions ever had.

Our next favourite spot near Tarifa was a bit further away from the old city centre; a spot called Los Caños de Meca. More exposed to the ocean than Balneario, this spot had massive waves and conditions better suited for advanced kites. Unfortunately, it's another spot closed to kitesurfers in the summer, but arriving later in the year allowed Madis to enjoy some solid surf sessions in this spot.





A bonus, being nearly an hour away from Tarifa meant more places for van camping!

Why now? To be honest with you, with the situation in the world, we were looking for an escape. Now that our road trip is coming to an end, we've had time to reflect on the lessons we have learned. Our perspective has changed. We realised our problems are minor; we just make them bigger with our thoughts. The people we met gave us hope. People like us, families living in vans, made us feel normal. We fell in love with Tarifa and this newfound feeling of freedom.

“ WE REALISED  
OUR PROBLEMS  
ARE MINOR; WE  
JUST MAKE THEM  
BIGGER WITH OUR  
THOUGHTS. ”

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**“ AS LONG AS YOU'RE FOCUSING ON YOURSELF, YOU CAN FIND THIS SAME OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW YOURSELF AND REFRESH YOUR PERSPECTIVE. ”**

As the weather got colder and rainy days became more frequent, we decided to end our road trip with one last stop at Obidos, in the neighbouring country of Portugal. We caught some wind at the flatwater lagoon of Obidos, with big Atlantic Ocean waves outside of the lagoon. The environment is wildly different from the kite spots in Tarifa and a definite must-visit when in Portugal.

Going home is much easier than we thought it would be. We are proud to say we have grown as a couple, a family, and individually. We strongly recommend taking time for yourself, especially amidst all the stress and frustration in the world. It doesn't have to be for months, and it doesn't mean you have to live in a van. Wherever you go in the world, as long as you're focusing on yourself, you can find this same opportunity to renew yourself and refresh your perspective.

We don't know when our dream life will come to an end, but most certainly, van life will always be in our hearts and, in some ways, always with us. Tarifa has become and will remain our number one kitesurf van travel destination, and we are looking forward to coming back here next year.

Follow our van life adventure on Instagram at [@bussielu](#). And to teach a little of our language to you - bussielu means van life!



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?!

These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes over 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 TESTING THE LIMITS

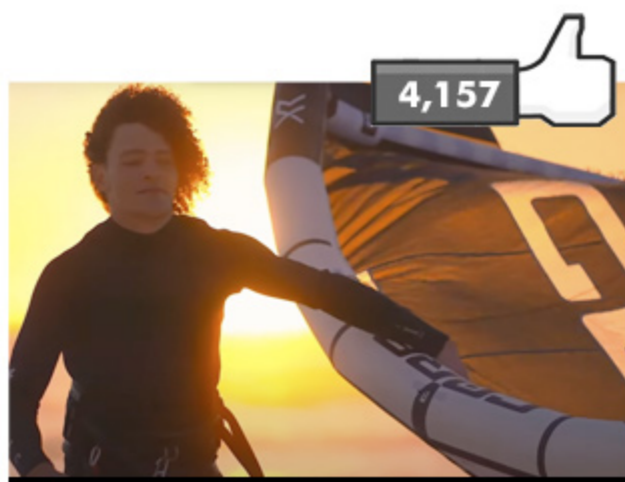
It's no secret that few can compare to Joshua Emanuel when it comes to looping. Claiming #1 slot on Movie Night this issue, watch Joshua testing the limits in this insane edit. Crank up the volume and strap in for a wild ride!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

## #2 MY YEAR 2021 JANEK GRZEGORZEWSKI

Janek Grzegorzewski is an insane rider, so when he dropped this compilation of his 2021 'Best Big Air Kitesurfing' footage, we knew it would go viral. Here's 2:15 of PURE entertainment – guaranteed.



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

## #3 STORM IN CAPE TOWN, THE WIND IS SO STRONG! #PIPSVLOG 62

More Cape Town madness on our Movie Night list – Landing at #3 is Pippa going MASSIVE at Misty Cliffs in #PIPSVLOG 62. Keep an eye out for her vlogs!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

## #4 NAZARE BIG WAVE SURF FOIL!!! COURT IN THE ACT #FREERIDE VLOG

No kiteboarding in this one, but our readers loved it! In the #4 spot is Tom Court teaming up with Glyn Ovens at one of the gnarliest big wave surfing locations; Nazaré.



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

# MOVIE NIGHT

RIDER POSITO MARTINEZ  
PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY

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