

JUNE/JULY 22

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 93 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine!

It's been an action packed few months, with wind blowing in what seems like every corner of the earth! In this issue, follow Publisher Rou Chater as he heads east to find gold in Qatar, join Joshua Emanuel on board a Red Sea cruise, and see what brought

James Boulding to the beaches of Miami. We check in with the up-and-coming riders of Naish Team Europe and students of the World Class Kite Academy. Read interviews with Liam Whaley, Camilla Ringvold, and Marley Franco, and that's not all! Hear all about the latest gear, learn new tricks and techniques, and more inside IKSURFMAG Issue 93!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE

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



- FINDING GOLD IN THE DESERT -
MIAMI MOVES / RED SEA SAILING / NAISH TEAM EUROPE
LIAM WHALEY / TESTS, TECHNIQUE & MORE INSIDE!

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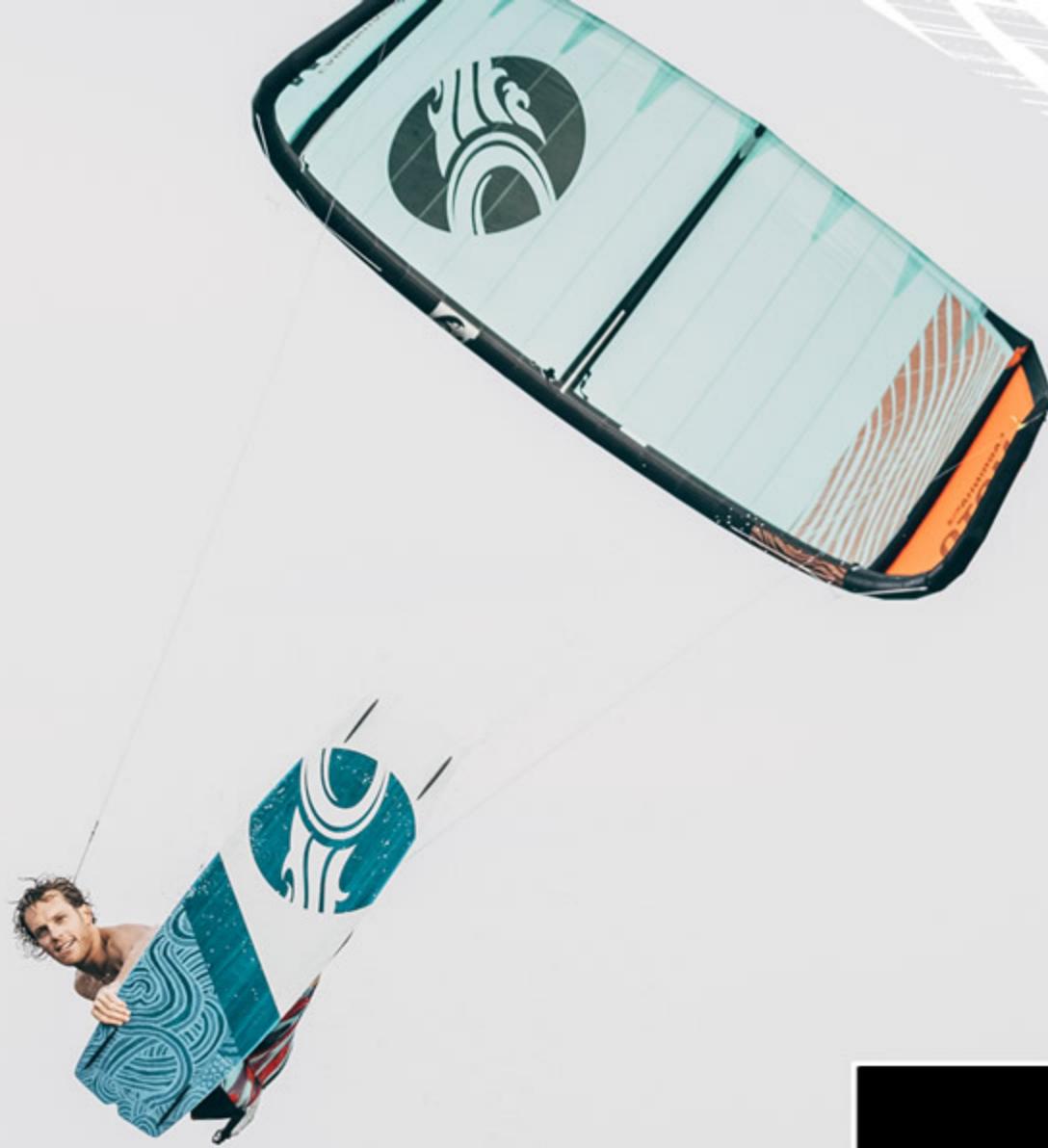
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RIDE WITH A LEGEND
RIDE WITH A LEGEND



RIDE WITH A LEGEND
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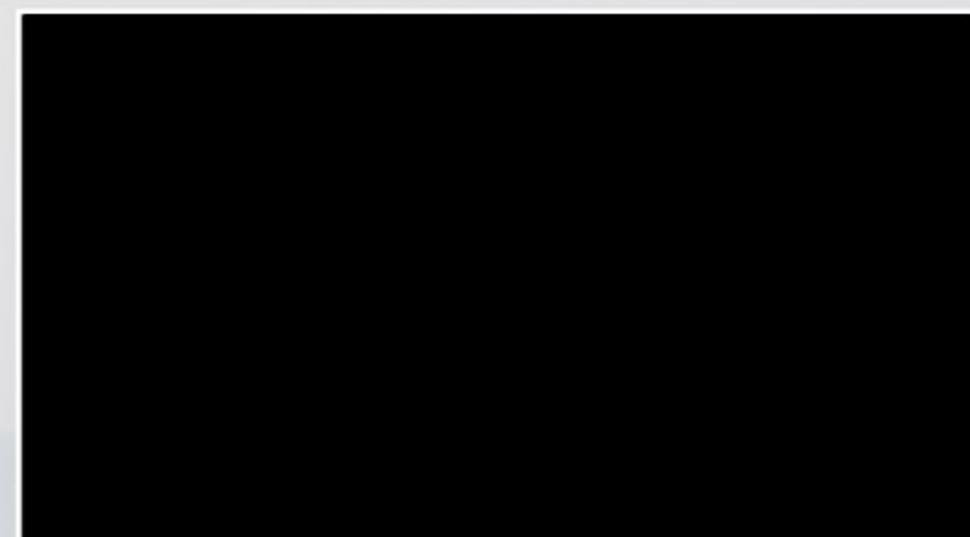


MOTO

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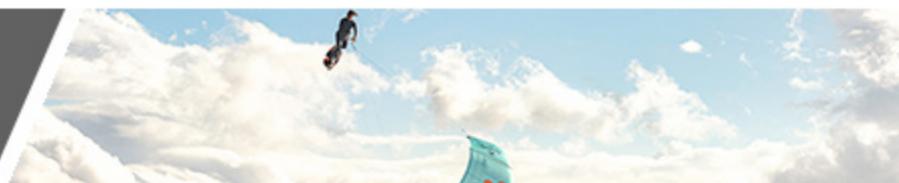


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COMPETITION



EDITORIAL



FINDING GOLD
IN THE DESERT



EXPLORE THE RED SEA



INTERVIEW:
LIAM WHALEY



MIAMI MOVES



TRIED & TESTED



TECHNIQUE



NAISH TEAM EUROPE -
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ON THE FLY



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INSIGHT:
CAMILLA RINGVOLD



AROUND THE WORLD
WITH WCKA



MOVIE NIGHT



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

RIDER CAMILLE DELANNOY
PHOTO FRANKIE BEES





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This issue, we've partnered up with Prolimit to give away a brand new Kitesurf Boardbag Golf Stacker Deluxe in size 140x45. Read more to find out how to win the perfect boardbag for your next kite trip!

Prolimit has created a travel bag packed with convenient features, ideal for air travel, or just keeping your vehicle clean and organised on your next road trip. The Golf Stacker Deluxe can be loaded

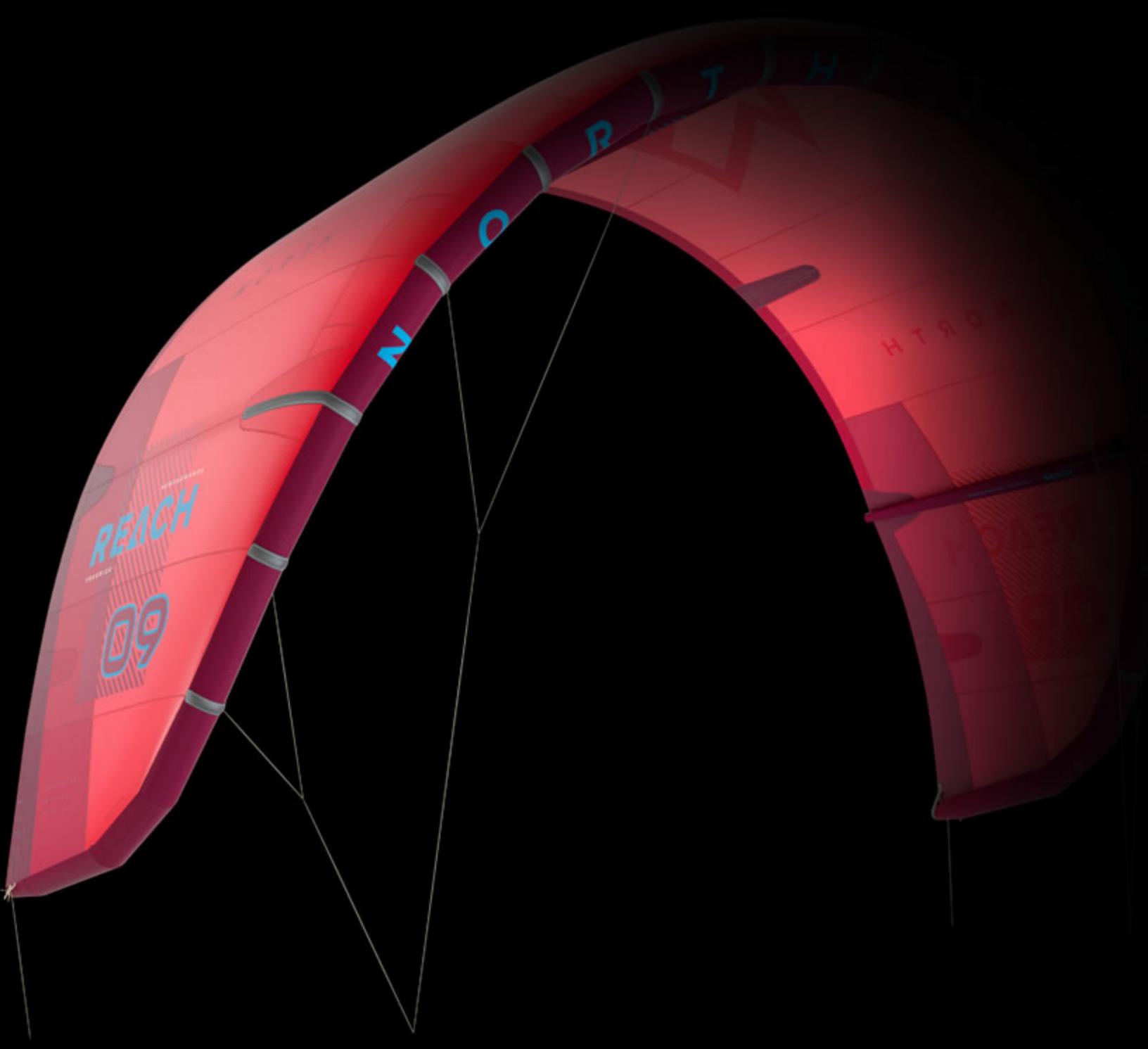
from two sides when flipped open, with the top compartment able to hold 3-4 kites. The bottom compartment fits 1 board, and the rest of your gear! This board bag is made with heavy-duty 600D polyester, durable non-corrosive zippers, with an air vent and big wheels, making your journey through the airport a breeze!

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ISSUE 93 HIGHS & LOWS

These last few months have been a proper set of highs and lows, but unfortunately, not on the water! As new homeowners (yay?!), in the middle of a renovation project that was way bigger than we originally planned, on a kitesurfer budget that is smaller than we'd like it to be, my motivation to kite has been lower than low. I can't remember the last time I looked at a wind forecast. Although, planning a gear storage area in the new house, or how to keep flooring and furniture from sustaining damage due to moisture and salt we'll surely be bringing home after our sessions? We've got plenty of time for that! Perhaps the low motivation has something to do with

low wind. Or, in the case of Cape Town, pretty much no wind for the past month or so. While poor conditions have been a great excuse for my lack of desire to kite, I still find myself wishing for a high wind day that will make me want to drop the hammer drill and race to the beach!

I'm not sure if it's just me.. but I think it's quite possible that a lot of us experience highs and lows in our motivation and desire for kiting, though it may not come up in conversation often. I think it's the same with a lot of hobbies, though. I have always thought that one of the reasons kitesurfing is a slow growth sport is, apart from the high cost of entry, that many people start and then never continue, or do it for a

year or two, and then give it up. After all, unless you live at a kite spot, kitesurfing is predominantly a vacation only sport, and as our lives change and our families grow, our vacation destinations often change along with them. So, for some, getting on the water becomes more and more difficult, until the desire to go at all simply fades away.

Thank goodness we've got the young, up and coming riders, or talented pro athletes to remind us what it's all about! Whether it's on our app, Instagram, on the latest event livestream, or down at the local kite beach - seeing the energy, drive, and excitement from other kites reminds me of my own love for kiting, or at least, the passion with which I enjoyed kiting in the early days.

When I see photos like this one of Zara Hoogenraad, who has gone from being a relatively unknown rider to absolutely dominating the women's Big Air scene, even pipping Hannah Whitely and Pippa van Iersel in recent competitions, I am reminded of how fast progression can be if you are invested in it, and how intoxicating that feeling is. Zara is certainly at a high point in her kiting career, and we know she's still on her way up!

When this photo of Josh Gillett arrived in my inbox, I was stoked. This image takes the word low - as in low loop - to the highest level! This South African rider is a frequent flyer at my (new) home spot near Cape Town, and his absolute love and dedication to kiting is absolutely contagious.

So, when you're in a low, don't hide from the community around you! Read the stories, watch the videos, double tap the pictures, and remember, we all go through highs and lows. But, next time your kite buddy makes contact, and your first instinct is to say no because you're too busy, stressed, or tired... consider saying yes. Sometimes the easiest way out of a low, or a no, is to make it a yes. You can't get high (up in the sky), unless you actually go get on your damn kite! So, save yourself from yourself and just get out there, you'll find the fire still burning, I guarantee it!

Crystal Veness

Editor



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RIDER ZARA HOOGENRAAD
PHOTO ANTONIO HERRERA TRUJILLO

On Qatar's northern coast an easy hour north of Doha you'll find Fuwairit Kite Beach. Perfect wind. Warm crystal-clear water. Until now, one of the world's best kitesurfing secrets. And soon, a resort designed and dedicated to everything we love about this way of life.

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WORDS ROU CHATER

FINDING GOLD IN THE DESERT

Rou Chater heads to Qatar on a voyage of discovery to check out a new world-class kite spot and discover what this small peninsular in the Arabian Gulf has to offer the travelling kitesurfer.



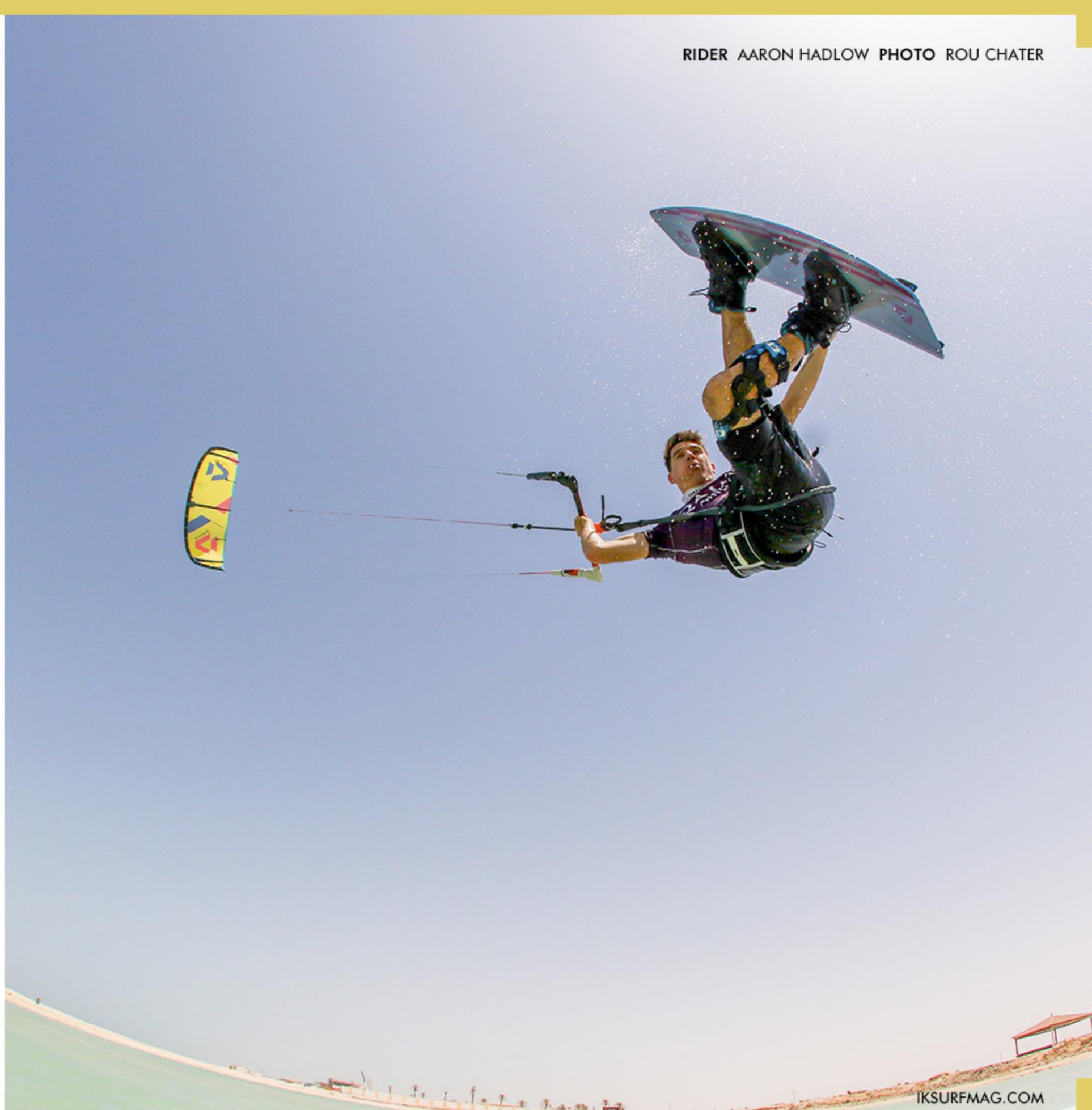
“ YOU’D BE FORGIVEN FOR NOT HAVING QATAR ON YOUR RADAR. CERTAINLY, AS A KITESURFING DESTINATION, IT IS RELATIVELY UNKNOWN. ”

If it wasn't for the World Cup in 2022 and you didn't work in the oil industry, you'd be forgiven for not having Qatar on your radar. Certainly, as a kitesurfing destination, it is relatively unknown. This small Arabian nation has visions of being on the world stage, and the World Cup is definitely going to thrust it into the spotlight later in the year.

If you take the trouble to look on Google Maps, you'll notice that while it is small, it is almost completely surrounded by coastline. Small wonder then that for many years, indeed since pre-roman times, the nation was a proud producer of some of the world's finest pearls. Its rich pearl diving economy afforded the tribespeople a decent life for centuries until cultured pearls changed all that.

Fortunately for the Qataris, the discovery of oil gifted them a further economic boost that is still going on today. It's enabled them to turn the desert of Doha into one of the most vibrant skyscraper cities in the world. The architecture is a testament to what can be achieved when you aren't constrained by a budget.

Indeed as you drive around Doha and see not just the buildings but also the eight gleaming stadiums poised to host the biggest football tournament in the world, the amount of investment is something to behold. It's this investment that has led me here; Qatar Airways and Visit Qatar are investing in the Global Kitesurfing Association World Tour as headline sponsors.



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The new Ultra Team, light years ahead.



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“ IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ME TO DECIDE THAT THIS SPOT WAS MY FAVOURITE OF THEM ALL ”

That's big news for the sport of kitesurfing - a sport that is often seen as lacking in funding on the world stage, especially from external businesses. You can read all about the partnership on our website, though this article isn't about that; this article is about discovery and the possibilities that lay before us.

For years, kites, like the Qataris of old, have been tribespeople. We have a lot of love for the members of our tribe, and we follow each other around the world on a migration that follows the wind. Some of our best friends are made on far-flung beaches as we chase warm winds and better conditions.

For me, I've found that intriguing on the one hand but bemusing on the other. Like the trade routes of old, the kitesurfer's travel itinerary seems to become ever more set in stone. As budgets are squeezed, we don't

want to chase new locations with a risk of no wind, and the tried and tested locations become favoured over and over again. South Africa from November to March, Egyptian, European and Hood River summers, Brazil for the autumn, Mauritius and Morocco in between; the same old countries get the same old stamps in our passports. Over and over, year after year.

I've always been keen on adventure. Indeed when we started kitesurfing back in 2000, once mastered, it wasn't about heading to the same spot for me. It was all about finding and riding new locations to see what they had to offer. It was the same with travelling,



“ WITH SO MUCH COASTLINE, IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY IT'S A POPULAR PASTIME FOR SOME OF THE LOCALS AND EX-PAT COMMUNITY. ”

driving up and down the Western Australian coastline when you would maybe see one other kiter on the water the whole trip, or heading back to Cabarete long after it had fallen victim to the lure of South Africa to discover spots away from Kite Beach that I consider world-class, and being the only person to really kitesurf some of them.

Sometimes the best conditions are around the corner, or on the other side of the coast, or even where you least expect to find them. With kitesurfing being around for over 22 years now, you'd think all the best spots have been found. However, we are tribal and victims of going to the same hallowed playgrounds over and over.

I recently moved to Wales and have loved working out where to kite and when. In a rich tapestry of untouched spots, I find it hard to believe you can still be a pioneer here. Yet you can. The same is true of Qatar. It's an untouched gem, known only to the locals and those privileged enough to have visited.

Kitesurfing has been around in Qatar for a long time, and even some of the ruling Al Thani family are keen kitesurfers, so I'm told. With so much coastline, it's easy to see why it's a popular pastime for some of the locals and ex-pat community. If you run a quick Google Map search for Fuwairit Beach, you'll quickly find the pearl of the Qatari kitesurfing scene.

It's a rich inlet lagoon of sandbars and mangroves with a cross onshore prevailing wind that blows between 15 and 30 knots from November to July. From above, it's not dissimilar from the lagoons of Brazil, and from the ground, it bears a striking resemblance too.



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NAISH

“KITESURFING HERE HAS BEEN INCREDIBLE, AND I GET EMOTIONAL THINKING ABOUT COMING BACK TO COMPETE AT THIS INCREDIBLE SPOT.”

So good is the spot that the GKA will be hosting not one but two events there each year, with an event already planned for November. Speaking to Bruna Kajiya, a multiple world freestyle champion who was out there with me, cemented the quality of the spot. "I've spent my life searching for perfect freestyle destinations and never thought there would be one as good as this that was relatively undiscovered. Kitesurfing here has been incredible, and I get emotional thinking about coming back to compete at this incredible spot."

Nick Jacobsen was equally positive, "it's so much fun. Upwind of the main spot, there are mangroves and lagoons to play around and jump over. Right out front of the centre is the most incredible sandbar for freestyle, and the water is so warm."

Standing on the beach in front of the soon to be finished centre, it's easy to see why Nick and Bruna love it so much. Right out front is a freeride playground that stretches as far as the eye can see. Just 100 yards upwind is a long sandbar that runs at right angles to the wind creating perfect flat water with a deep landing area. Upwind of this and its lagoons, sandbars and mangroves for as far as you care to ride.

With a spot this good on the doorstep, it's easy to see why the Qataris kitesurf. It's even better that they are keen to share it with the world. A purpose-built kite centre will be finished in September. Looking at the plans, it's fair to say it's arguably going to be the best kitesurfing centre on the planet in terms of facilities and layout. The Qataris don't do things by halves,

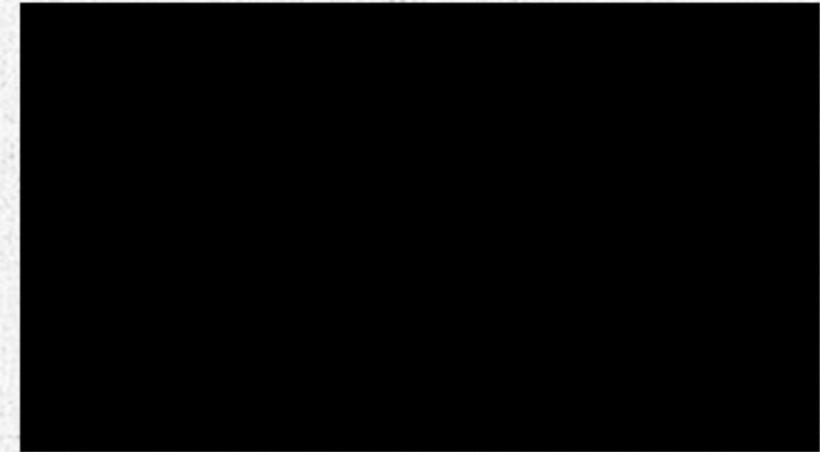
NICK JACOBSEN WITH THE QATARI CAMELS
PHOTO RICARDO PINTO







RIDER: KADEN SPONHAUER | PHOTOGRAPHER: ERIC DURAN



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“ IT'S A CENTRE THAT IS BEING BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP AROUND WHAT KITESURFERS WANT AND NEED ”

and this is no exception. Chatting to Charles Francis about the project, he explained that while the finished centre will be grand, Fuwairit Kite Beach (FKB) resort has been designed with the spot in mind. They are limiting the accommodation to just over 40 rooms, so the spot can fit the kites,

rather than having hundreds of rooms and giving visiting kites a bad experience. It's a centre that is being built from the ground up around what kitesurfers want and need, rather than the other way around.

Equally impressive is the speed at which all this has happened. FKB was the brainchild of Sarah Lord, an ex-pat who's lived in Qatar for 38 years and one of the pioneers of kiteboarding here. She explained to me that kiteboarding has been happening at Fuwairit

Beach since the very beginning. It's where the Olympic team were training and is the spot most Qataris go for the weekend. Just an hour or so from Doha, it's an easy drive along incredibly well-maintained highways from both the Hamad International airport and the city.

In 2018 she approached Charles with the idea for a proper kite centre here, one that could put Qatar on the map as a kitesurfing destination. With funding and support from higher up, Sarah's dreams started becoming a reality, one that is now just a few months away from completion.



EXPLORING DOHA PHOTO ROU CHATER

Putting Qatar on the kitesurfing map is really what it is all about. Having now been there and checked the spot out, it certainly has the potential to be up there with Brazil. The spot is world-class; there is no denying that. The plans for the centre are quite literally out of this world, as most Qatari building projects are. It's warm and windy, and you won't need much of a wetsuit, all elements the travelling kitesurfer wants. On its day there is even a good wave spot further up the coastline too. I didn't get to kite here, but Sarah said it can have overhead high waves breaking on a reef when it's good.

“ THE PLANS
FOR THE CENTRE
ARE QUITE
LITERALLY OUT
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“ WHO KNOWS WHAT PEARLS COULD BE LURKING OVER THE NEXT SAND DUNE? ”

I think that's the key - while Fuwairit Kite Beach is going to be the jewel in the crown of kitesurfing in Qatar, there is potential for much more to be untapped. Almost completely surrounded by the sea, who knows what pearls could be lurking over the next sand dune? All you need to do is get out there and explore. Have a look at the Inland Sea on Google Maps if you want a glimpse of what I mean...

Fuwairit Kite Beach resort will be opening in September, and it should be your first port of call to get the lowdown on kitesurfing in the country. Sarah and the team will be offering trips out to other spots and excursions to the souks (markets) and dunes as well. While the spot might be one of the best in the world, there are still plenty of other things to keep you entertained. If you can find any tickets, you could even get to watch a bit of football if you go in November, but as kites, we know if the wind is blowing, there's almost zero chance of finding us in a stadium.

I didn't know what to expect when I jumped on the plane. The warmth of the welcome and hospitality was matched only by the warmth of the winds that blew at the beach. The Qataris are opening their arms to the kitesurfers of the world, and it should be a bucket list spot for many of us. There are more than just pearls in the Arabian Sea here. Kitesurfing gold can be yours too.



FUWAIRIT KITE BEACH RESORT SCALE MODEL PHOTO ROU CHATER

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- 135/41
- 137/41.5
- 139/42
- 141/42.5
- 144/43.5

A wide-angle photograph of a kitesurfer in mid-air over a beach. The kite is a vibrant green with a black logo. The rider is silhouetted against the sky, holding a board. The beach is sandy and leads to clear, turquoise water. In the background, there are palm trees and a building with a covered patio.

“ THE QATARIS ARE OPENING THEIR ARMS TO THE KITESURFERS OF THE WORLD, AND IT SHOULD BE A BUCKET LIST SPOT FOR MANY OF US. ”

RIDER NICK JACOBSEN PHOTO ROU CHATER

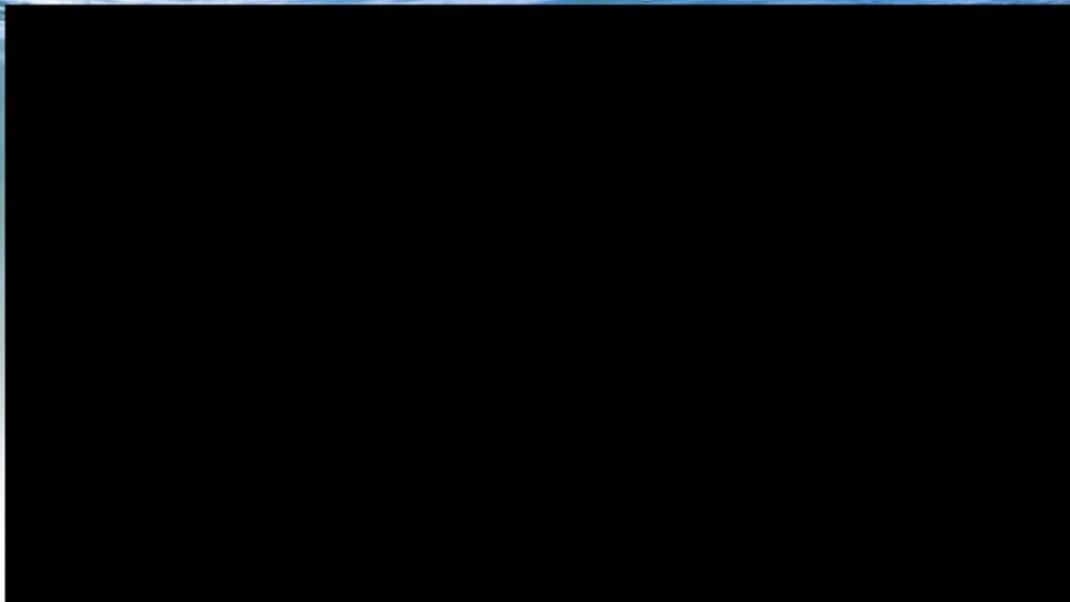


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WORDS JOSHUA EMANUEL

The Red Sea is a kitesurfer's dream, and what better way to explore all the kite spots on offer than on a yacht? In this article, Joshua Emanuel takes us on board on his Egyptian adventure!

EXPLORE THE RED SEA



PHOTO RABIH EL ZEIN

“ THE SPOT AT THE TOP OF MY LIST WAS EGYPT'S RED SEA. EGYPT IS AN AMAZING PLACE WITH INCREDIBLE KITING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. ”

After the windy season in South Africa ended, it was time to seek out wind elsewhere, and the spot at the top of my list was Egypt's Red Sea. Egypt is an amazing place with incredible kiting all over the country. Getting around is relatively easy with a few different flight options or long taxi drives. I don't particularly enjoy Cairo, but I've never been one for big cities. The smaller centres like El Gouna, Ras Sude, Dahab and Blue Lagoon are my favourite areas for kiting. They all offer beautiful flat water spots, no waves, and best of all, wind.

The airport was slow, and I struggled to get information while waiting over an hour for my board bags to arrive. The transfer to Hurghada was comparatively easy, and the crew at Wind Seekers arranged our transport to the port. We saw mainly deserts with mountains and abandoned buildings, and even huge hotels along the way.

The Red Sea was a welcome sight, with crystal clear blue waters, sunshine, and a steady breeze. And what better way to experience this gem than on a luxury yacht charter?

This trip marked my second Kite Safari in Egypt with the Wind Seekers, and, spoiler alert, it wasn't a disappointment. The first trip was in August of 2021, and we had wind every day and non-stop kiting. I hosted a camp on that trip, and I was excited to return to see my clients' progression. And, of course, the first trip was so epic that I couldn't resist coming back!





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“IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ME TO DECIDE THAT THIS SPOT WAS MY FAVOURITE OF THEM ALL”

As soon as you leave the port, the boat becomes home base for the next six nights. The first few hours are spent getting to know your fellow passengers and making friends with like-minded people who have travelled from all over the world to go kiting in this exotic location. We had nine different nationalities on this trip, and by the end, we all knew each other pretty well.

The Wind Seekers crew onboard were super friendly and always ready to help, and the chef is an absolute champ at what he does. Food is vital on a trip like this. When you're kiting six or seven hours per day, you need to keep your energy levels up!

The first spot we got to ride was a new one for me, one we never got to go to before due to too many boats crowding the area. But, this time, we scored, and it didn't take long for me to decide that this spot was my favourite of them all. It had so much to offer from being able to do big land gap jumps,

cruising through the mangroves on the more upwind side and having perfect butter flat water to take off on, and a landing area that wasn't too shallow. In contrast, many spots have super shallow water, which is not ideal for big air. This is one of two spots that was the perfect training grounds for all levels.

Being on a boat gives you access to the peaceful, out of the way spots that are hard to reach any other way than by sea. We even explored islands several hours away from Hurghada. The boat cruises around to little islands around the Red Sea, and each offers its own unique experience.

PHOTO RABIH EL ZEIN



There is nothing better than getting up at the crack of dawn. What gets me frothing is waking up to the sensation of the boat rocking from side to side and the whistling sound of wind niking through your window, not to be confused with the kettle whistling for your early morning coffee!

“ WAKING UP TO THE SENSATION OF THE BOAT ROCKING FROM SIDE TO SIDE ”

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“ AN EVEN GREATER SURPRISE WAS THAT THE CREW WAS KEEN TO JOIN ME FOR THIS DAWN SESSION IN NUKING WINDS! ”

PHOTO HAMADANI ROBA

As most guests and other boats start to arrive at the location at around 7:00 am, I always get up super early to get the spot to myself at sunrise. One morning, word got out on our boat that I was heading out on the dawn patrol, and to my absolute surprise, more than half of the boat was waiting in the lobby for me to get there! An even greater surprise was that the crew was keen to join me for this dawn session in nukuing winds! We rigged up and went out on the small boat to park on the beach and knew it would be a lit session when we were pumping up with sand flying in all directions! Seeing the sun come up as we got on the water was an incredible feeling; I truly enjoy sharing sessions with others.

Over five days of kiting, two of those days had winds of over 30 knots, perfect for riders who wanted to learn loops or progress their loops. Most other days averaged between 15 and 23 knots. This type of wind is what you want when learning your first front and back rolls or even your first jump! When it comes to coaching, I believe there shouldn't be a limit in terms of your ability, but you should be able to ride upwind at least and be prepared to kite for several hours in a day. These basic skills mean that almost every kite spot we visit will suit all riders participating.

It would be hard to single out one success story from the coaching during this trip, as all the riders progressed so much. For most, it was the technique in riding and especially take off for jumps. Adam was a decent rider who had been more focussed on freestyle but wanted to get more into the loops.



PHOTO RABIH EL ZEIN



His timing was out initially, but it started coming together after just a few tips and attempts. Russel arrived ready to learn and always had question after question about what he could be doing better. By the end of the trip, he progressed from struggling to edge properly to flying upwind, beach jump start and his first jumps. Everybody on this boat was super frothed about kiting, and they wanted nothing more but to kite all day, every day.

“ THEY WANTED NOTHING MORE BUT TO KITE ALL DAY, EVERY DAY. ”

ALPHA

THE ULTIMATE HARDSHELL HARNESS



3D HARDSHELL IN PURE TECHNOLOGY
INTEGRATED BAR PAD
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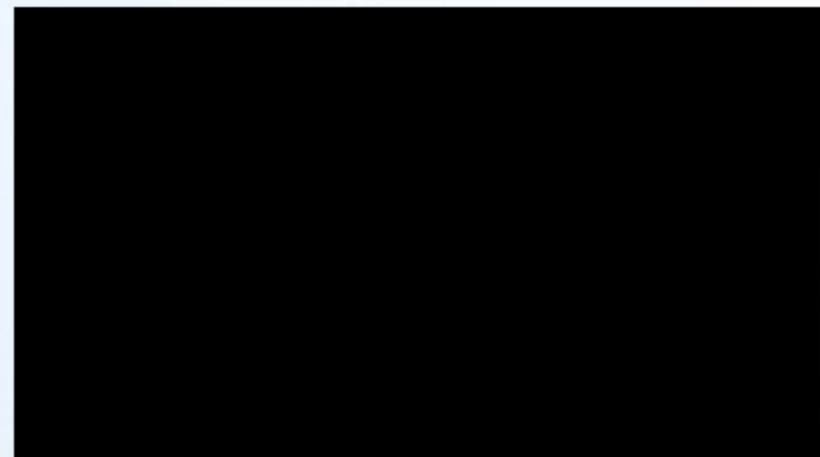






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EXTREME
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Breaking Big Air boundaries, the XS has an extreme boost that will rocket you to new levels.

07m / 08m / 09m / 10m / 12m / 14m



LIGHT AND TOUGH MULTI STEP
LOAD FRAME CONSTRUCTION



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4X4 RIPSTOP WEAVE

XT EXTREME HIGH
TENACITY CLOTH

“ ON TOP OF SCORING INCREDIBLE WIND ALMOST EVERY DAY, WE ALSO GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT LIES BELOW. ”

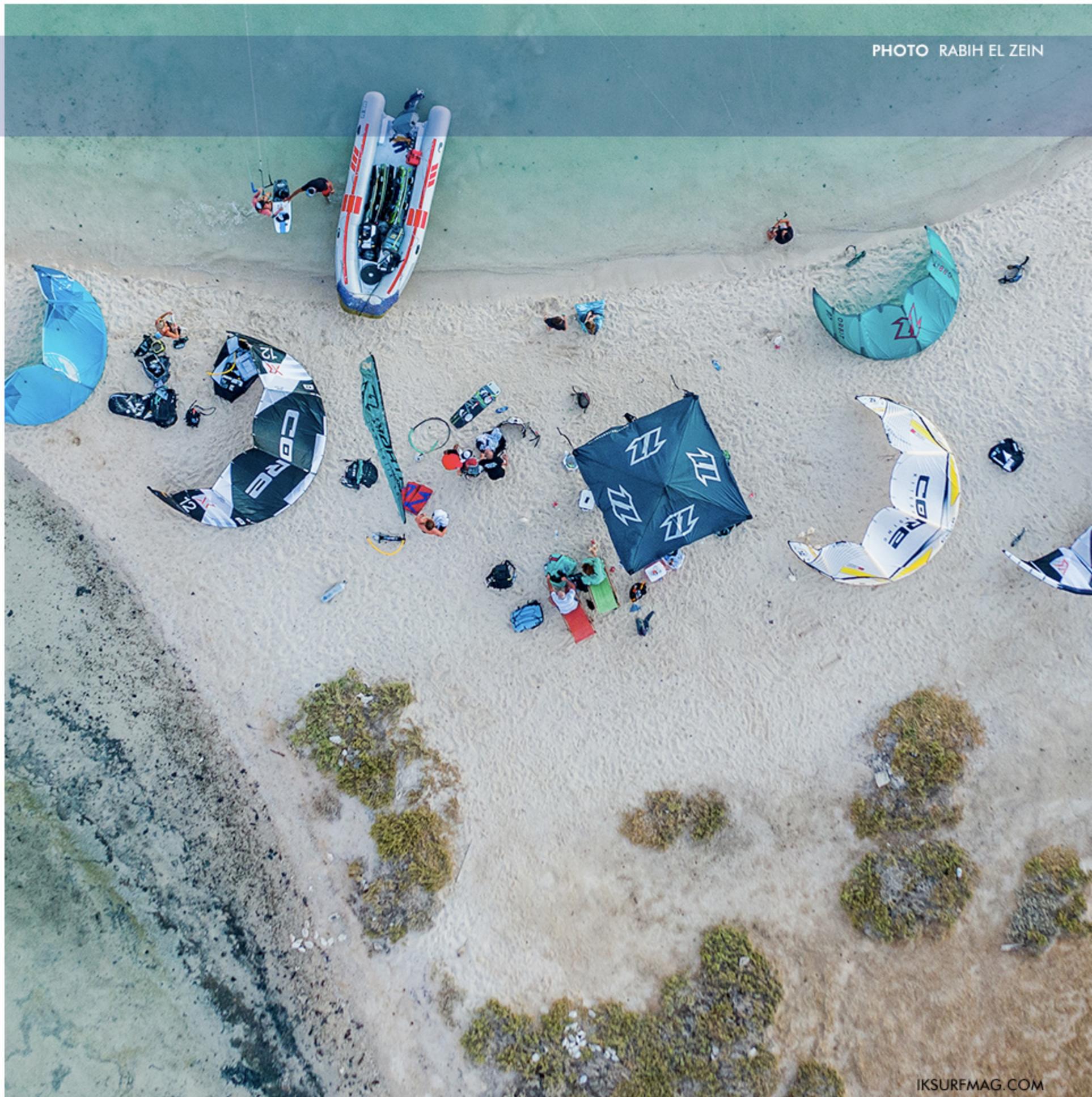
PHOTO RABIH EL ZEIN

One of the best memories from the Red Sea was watching and trying to teach the guys to do their first beach starts. They all saw that some of the guys were starting on the sand, throwing their kites to one side and just jumping straight into the water to start their session. For some, it seemed an extreme way to get on the water, but it was an absolute must-try before the end of the trip. There were some interesting attempts where people's boards stayed on the beach while they carried on flying into the air, but everyone persevered, and they managed to land their first beach starts.

Another hilarious moment was watching Mostafa attempt to dive off the boat after telling the guys it was the best way to jump in. As he jumped, he proceeded to go head first but didn't get enough of an angle, resulting in an impressive belly flop from the third story of the boat. All we heard was a loud thud as Mostafa hit the water, followed by an "ahhaaaaaa".

On top of scoring incredible wind almost every day, we also got the opportunity to see what lies below. Let's just say it's also pretty unbelievable, swimming down below with loads of different reef fish and even a pod of dolphins joining the underwater party!

If you plan to spend an extra night or two before or after the trip in El Gouna, I recommend it! I call it Little Europe as it has every activity you can think of from cable park, kite centres, golf, tennis, paddle, a motocross track, and a lot more.



CONTROL IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

THE GEM, BY BRUNA KAJIYA



BREAKBOUNDARIES

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“ I SEE THE RED SEA AS A GREAT LEARNING GROUND FOR MY STUDENTS AND THE FASTEST PLACE TO PROGRESS. WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?! ”

This trip will have a place on the calendar every year - it's too good not to repeat! I see the Red Sea as a great learning ground for my students and the fastest place to progress. What more could you ask for?!

After Egypt, it's off to Mauritius and on to Madagascar to keep chasing the wind. Down the line? More kite trips and coaching in locations like Mozambique, Mauritius, Kenya and others under my company, Fruitloops. Hope to see you on the water in one of these spots soon!

Light & Strong

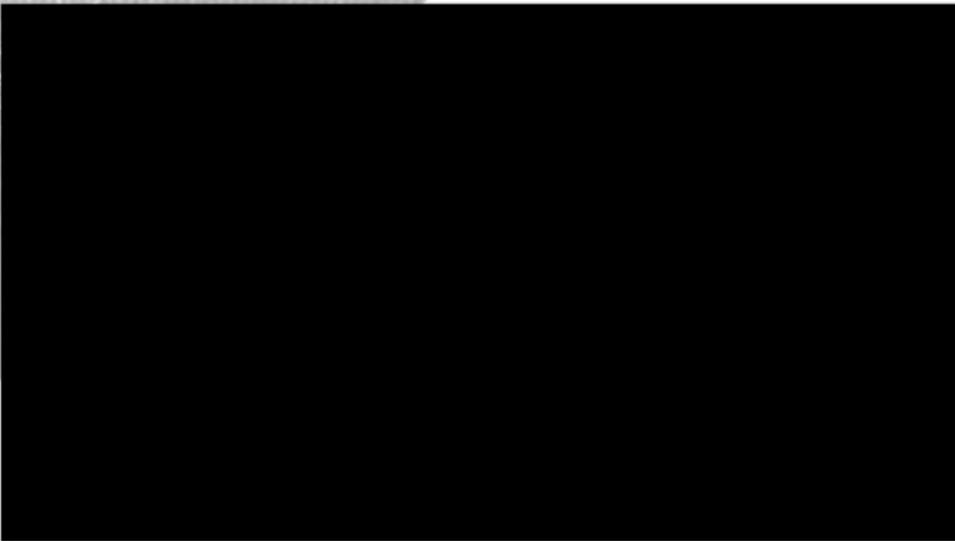
HYPER

ELEVATING SENSATION.



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



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7 m 2.7 kg	9 m 3.1 kg	10 m 3.3 kg	12 m 3.7 kg	15 m 4.1 kg
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LIAM WHALEY

WORDS JEN TYLER

In this issue's "The Interview," you'll hear all about the exciting projects in the World of Whaley. We caught up with Liam Whaley to talk about his new Pro Center opening at Valdevaqueros, teaming up with Duotone and Porsche, his goals for 2022, and much more. We've got it all exclusively on IKSURFMAG!

PHOTO NURIA OLIU

IKSURFMAG.COM

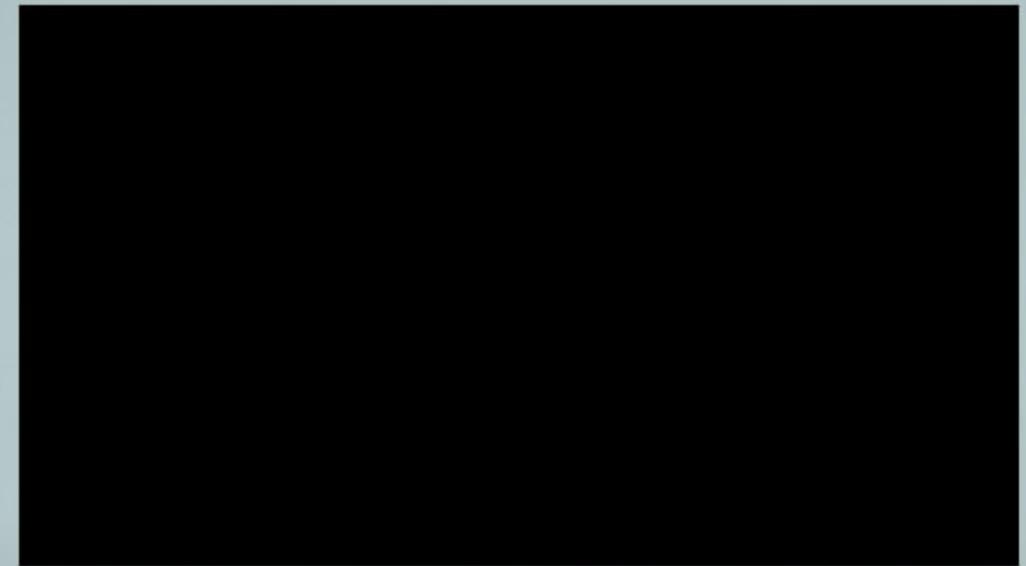


Le Bikisuit

Make no mistake, the Bikisuit is not a swimsuit!

It's frustrating to get cold in the summer, therefore the Bikisuit only uses high-quality 2mm neoprene and blind stitched seams. Paired with the renown MANERA fit, the Bikisuit keeps you warm during chilly summer days.

Discover our wetsuits range on manera.com



“ DESPITE BEING CARRIED AWAY BY A RIP CURRENT, I DID NOT LET IT DISCOURAGE ME FROM WANTING TO LEARN. ”



Liam, these last few months have seen an endless stream of exciting news in the World of Whaley; it's hard to know where even to start! So maybe we should start from the beginning - give us the cliff notes of 'the life of Liam'! Where were you born, where do you live, and what was your life like growing up?

I grew up in Ibiza, but I now live in Tarifa! I was always into sports and never enjoyed school. I played tennis, football, and skateboarded during my childhood.

When did you first discover kiteboarding?

I saw my first kiteboarding when I was about five or six, but I had been flying trainer kites on the beach since I was three! Finally, I learned to kiteboard in Tarifa when I was eight years old with a friend of my father's.

How did the lessons go? Did you take to it immediately, or did it take some time?

I had some pretty awful experiences, to begin with, but despite being carried away by a rip current, I did not let it discourage me from wanting to learn. After my "bad experience", I continued to learn and was back in the water within a couple of days.

Did you know right away that you would be pursuing a career in kiteboarding?

Not immediately, but very early on. I think I knew that I wanted to be a professional by the age of ten.

Speaking of your career, you've had some major news with the recent move over to Duotone Kiteboarding. How did that come about?!

We have been in contact for many years, but nothing has worked out. Duotone is the biggest brand in the industry, and I have always seen great potential in riding for them. So with my contract ending,



signing with Porsche, and opening my kite center, it was perfect timing to join forces!

What is your go-to quiver at Duotone?

What about with ION?

My Big Air setup is the Rebel 8 or 9m with the Trust Bar (22m lines). Then the Jaime SLS size 136! For freestyle, I love the Vegas 11 or 13m with the 142 Team Series SLS!

For ION, I am riding the Seek Select wetsuit and the Riot Curv harness! Feeling very comfortable in my gear!

“ IT WAS PERFECT TIMING TO JOIN FORCES! ”

ELEMENTS

THE NEW DEFINITION OF COMFORT ZONE



INTRODUCING THE NEW
INDIVIDUAL **3D FIT**
TECHNOLOGY

SURFING

LESS PAIN

MORE PERFORMANCE

MORE WATER TIME





"IT DRIVES GREAT, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING IT IS QUITE A BIG CAR THAT FITS MY GEAR PERFECTLY."

With F-ONE, what's it like closing the door with a brand you've had such a strong relationship with?

Honestly, it was a really tough decision to make. However, I respect F-ONE as a brand. They are very passionate, and I wish them all the best.

Thanks to your recent partnership with Porsche, you've also got a flashy new set of wheels. Tell us more about that!

It's wild! I've always loved cars and driving, so owning a Porsche is a dream come true at 25. I drive the Porsche Cayenne Hybrid, the sportiest SUV on the market. It drives great, especially considering it is quite a big car that fits my gear perfectly. The electric

option is also ideal for driving around Tarifa. I charge my car every night with my home charger and rarely have to use petrol. Next on my list is a fully electric car. I hope to get my hands on a Taycan Cross Turismo soon!

What is the relationship between Duotone and Porsche?

Rather than just putting its branding everywhere and having no involvement in kitesurfing, Porsche wants to support the sport authentically and helpfully. So, in partnership with Duotone, they help Duotone develop their software and add training exercises from Porsche drivers to the Duotone Academy app, supporting the

Duotone magazine and Duotone Academy app.

Now for the latest exciting news... you're opening a Pro Center! Where is it, and what is the setup like? What will you offer there?

There's no doubt this is the scariest thing in my life. It's a lot of pressure and a huge investment to open such a center. It's located in the most famous kite spot in Tarifa and possibly the world; Tumbao, Valdevaqueros. The project has been an incredible experience, and I've learned so much about running a business as a result of it. At the Liam Whaley Pro Center, we will offer kitesurfing, windsurfing, and wing-foiling lessons, as well as the latest gear from Duotone,



PHOTO NURIA OLIU

Fanatic, and I on. We will also have a pro shop to sell everything from boardshorts to kites!

What inspired you to start a Pro Center? Are you excited or nervous about this new endeavour?

My inspiration is giving back. I grew up kiting on this beach, and it has given me everything I have ever needed, and I feel that it is my obligation to give back. Therefore, I am both nervous and confident that this project will change my life!

Will you be managing the Pro Center yourself and teaching, or will you hire a team to work there?

Over the past few months, I have been fully involved in building this business from scratch. Before I put someone in charge, I want to understand all the ins and outs of the company.

" I AM BOTH NERVOUS AND CONFIDENT THAT THIS PROJECT WILL CHANGE MY LIFE! "

P2

1200

Born from a legend, the all new P2 1200 takes 6 years of kite hydrofoil development to produce what is potentially the easiest and most versatile foil on the market today.

EASIEST AND MOST VERSATILE FOIL ON THE MARKET

CARBON MAST 60cm
75cm 82cm 90cm
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G10 STABILISER SF47

FUSER 580 with 3 option mast position for multi-sport versatility.

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" I LOVE DOING OTHER SPORTS SUCH AS SURFING, SNOWBOARDING OR PLAYING TENNIS "

PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY

Then, once everything is running smoothly, I will put someone else in charge of running the business so I can continue my professional career. But I won't stop keeping up with it when I can. Although I won't be teaching regularly, I'll try to be present as much as possible and offer some coaching!

Back to your competitive career, the Red Bull King of the Air 2022 (10th Anniversary) will be held this November or December. Are you pre-qualified, or is your path to KOTA via the Fly-To series or video entry process?

If I am not mistaken, I am not pre-qualified as I placed

5th last year, and only the top 3 pre-qualify. However, I think I will submit a video entry as I am confident I will capture some great content this year.

Which kites will make up your competition quiver at KOTA?

I will bring a 7, 8, 9, and 10 Rebel SLS and possibly a couple sizes of Dice SLS for my unhooked moves.

Do you plan to compete in the full GKA event series this year? What are your competition goals at the GKA?

The only GKA I plan to participate in is the Big Air GKA stop in my hometown, Tarifa. For this year, I will be taking a break from freestyle to concentrate on one discipline, as well as the Kite Center, which is taking up a great deal of time.

What do you do for fun when you're not flying around the world, chasing the wind?

I love doing other sports such as surfing, snowboarding or playing tennis. I also take advantage of those off-season moments to spend time with my girlfriend, friends and family.

What else do you have in the works for 2022? Any more massive news or exciting projects coming up?

My goals include making sure my Pro Center operates smoothly, becoming Big Air World Champion and King of the Air, and collaborating with Duotone and Porsche on great projects.

There is no massive news for now, but I'm sure there are plenty of exciting things on the way!



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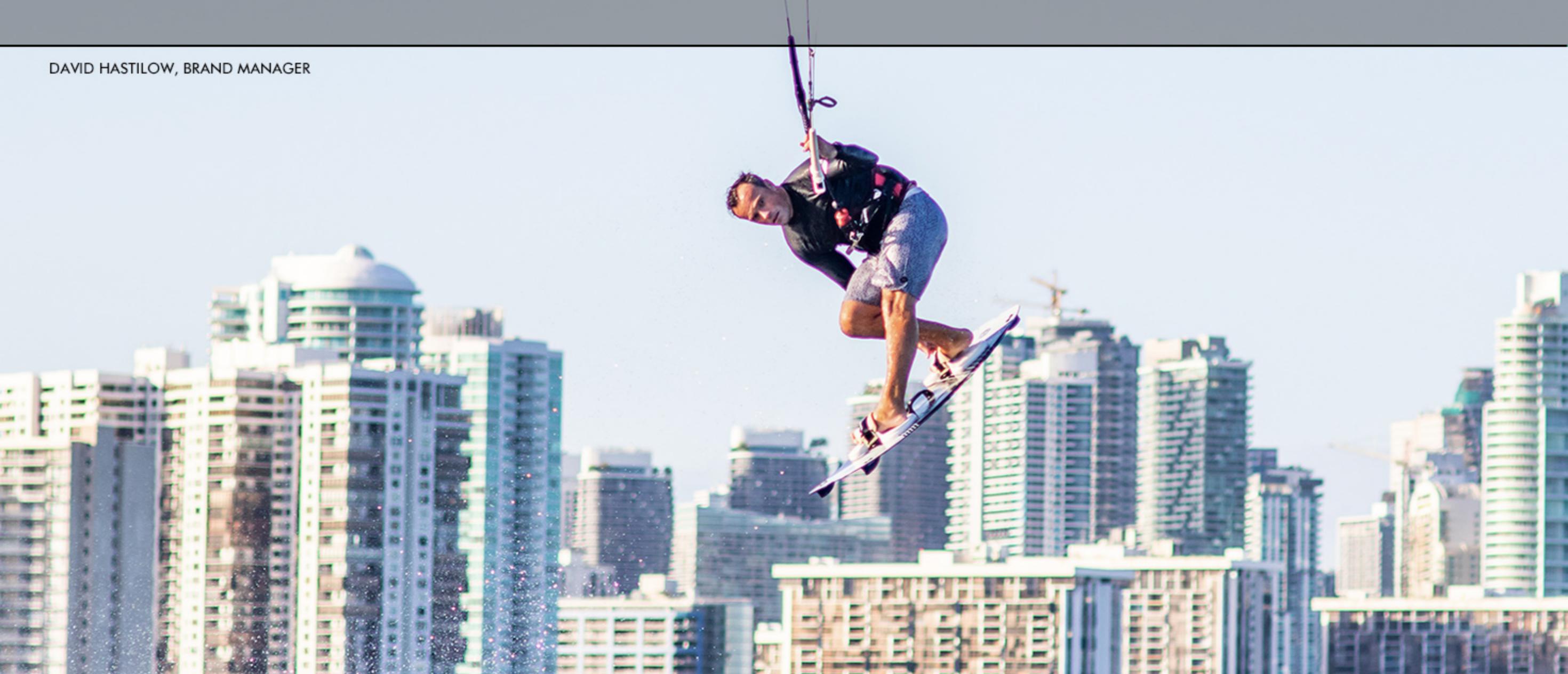
Accepting applications for
the 2022-23 school year

WORDS & PHOTOS JAMES BOULDING

With stunning scenes and a vibrant sailing community, Miami is a hotspot for the wind and water industries. Cabrinha has made some exciting moves in recent years, the latest including a Miami skyline view! James Boulding tells us all about it in this IKSURFMAG exclusive.

MIAMI MOVES





“ A HUGE AMOUNT IS HAPPENING ON THE WATER WITH AN ECLECTIC MIX OF PASSIONATE WATERSPORTS USERS OF ALL AGES. ”

Miami might not be the first destination that springs to mind when talking about wind sports in the US, but with a vibrant sailing community and roots linked to the US Olympic sailing program, there is an abundance of conditions to satisfy the

modern day waterman. A huge amount is happening on the water with an eclectic mix of passionate watersports users of all ages. Further still, there is an exciting and diverse mix of spots for all levels of rider right at the epicentre of one of America's most visited cities.

Ranging further south down towards Key West or north into Jupiter, there are a plethora of spots to choose from all along

the Florida coastline. With a wide array of different sized 'keys' (low lying sandy islands) located up and down the coast, there are some incredible flat water spots such as Matheson Hammock, with its butter flat waters, while the more ocean open beach fronts see waves and kicker locations.

Upon my arrival in Miami after a slightly groggy 7-hour flight from London, I was greeted with a stiff northerly breeze that perfectly suited a downwinder from the tip of South Beach down the coastline to Coconut Grove,

THE CABRINHA CREW EXPLORING MIAMI BY BOAT!



our starting point. Along with the rest of the Miami-based team, we would take in the city sights, island hop via a selection of sand bars downwind and buzz underneath the Rickenbacker bridge, standing at a height of not much more than flying line lengths! Travelling by water is honestly the best way to see the Miami city skyline as the sun dips down behind the land and casts long shadows out into the water.

“ TRAVELLING BY WATER IS HONESTLY THE BEST WAY TO SEE THE MIAMI CITY SKYLINE ”



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“ WHEN YOU ADD INTO THE MIX BOAT ACCESS, THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER, WITH A HOST OF STUNNING CITYSCAPE BACKGROUNDS LIKE NO OTHER. ”

Shooting in Miami was a new experience for me. While my primary reason for being there was to work with our commercial, logistics & retail teams, I find it hard to pass up an opportunity to shoot when the wind is up, and conditions are on point. Around Miami, when you add into the mix boat access, the world is your oyster, with a host of stunning cityscape backgrounds like no other. The affluent Downtown Miami skyline feels like it drops straight down to the water's edge, and kiting in front of the skyscrapers suddenly adds a magnified perspective.

Having boat access always makes shooting a lot easier, too; you can position yourself wherever you want with the riders and also control the distance between riders and the camera very easily. However, as much as I like shooting on board a boat, my favourite angles are always from the water. This is where I think you get the most dynamic imagery, and with a good housing with different ports for a variety of lenses, you can play with the water, rider and landscape across each composition. It was actually only after I had gotten out from a water session that Kent showed me a video of a huge bull shark right where we were!

A thrilling way to start the trip, but incredible urban downwinders weren't the only motivation for this trip. This year, Cabrinha has made a significant move. Located just a stone's throw from the water's edge, you'll find Cabrinha's new Commercial Operations HQ.

BRENDAN HEALY,
AMERICA SALES MANAGER



Boasting stunning views of downtown Miami, it is immersed in the sailing community of Coconut Grove. It perfectly complements the brand HQ Cabrinha maintains in Maui. It is another clear indication of the brand's globally connected workforce that ties together R&D, sales, marketing and distribution.

The move certainly ups the water time for staff, something Cabrinha US sales manager Brendan Healy outlines with glee:

**“IT PERFECTLY
COMPLEMENTS
THE BRAND HQ
CABRINHA
MAINTAINS IN
MAUI.”**

KOALA

FOIL - TWIN TIP - SNOW

Shot - Vanessa Escande

Rider - Jerome Josserand



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“ LIVING THROUGH THE LAST TWO YEARS WITH COVID, IT'S CLEAR HOW IMPORTANT TIME ON THE WATER IS FOR OUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING. ”

"Our newly relocated Cabrinha/Dakine HQ offices, now in the heart of Coconut Grove in Miami, have already proven to be a major step forward for the brands. Although only about a 25-minute drive from our previous location, the new location has moved our staff exponentially closer to Miami's beaches and riding locations. We're now only a 5-minute drive from the beach, which opens the door significantly for equipment testing, product feedback, and an overall increase in quality of life for our entire staff. An interesting byproduct of this is that our staff is now more present at the local riding spots on days when we otherwise would not be. Our prototype and Cab Design Works products now have increased visibility on the water in Miami, which in turn generates a bit of a buzz around the brands for both existing and future products."

Living through the last two years with Covid, it's clear how important time on the water is for our mental and physical wellbeing. There's no better example of immersion in the local community than Cabrinha's Newfound Freedom Project, which offers people suffering from physical and mental challenges a route into watersports. In association with Estuary Brewing, the creation of a new 'Drifter Coast to Coast' lager forwards funds from each beer sold into the project, offering watersports experience weekends run by Cabrinha staff and team.

THE NEWFOUND FREEDOM PROJECT
PHOTOS SHELBY RING



KENT, BRENDAN,
DANIEL, FRANCES RIVERA



The initiative kicked off last year and is set to expand through 2022, with more events building on the success of year 1. This year also sees a rollout of Drifter beers in local supermarkets in the Florida area, set up to increase finance for the program. A simple concept, but with a powerful and life-changing action driven by our immersion in the water no matter where life has taken us.

Frances Rivera, Cabrinha exports manager, heads up the operation in Miami with keen personal interest:

**“ A SIMPLE
CONCEPT, BUT
WITH A
POWERFUL AND
LIFE-CHANGING
ACTION ”**

NOBILE



www.nobilekiteboarding.com

“ THE ULTIMATE FOCUS OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO SUPPLY SPECIFIC CENTRES WITH EQUIPMENT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THEIR LEARNING ”

"It's pretty amazing to see all of the smiles and participants we had for Newfound Freedom in year 1. I look forward to meeting more people who have the hunger to learn and make kiteboarding and winging their hobby and see the positive benefits it can have. As more people with disabilities have taken up kiteboarding over the past years, the ultimate focus of this program is to supply specific centres with equipment designed to support their learning and progress through kite and wing surfing."

Cabrinha brand manager Dave Hastilow outlines his experience in Miami after a recent visit from the brands Maui HQ:

"I've been on many visits to Miami over the past couple of decades, and what has always impressed me is its residents' passion for being on the water. The new Commercial HQ location puts the staff right in the heart of the action and definitely allowed us to maximize our ocean time when we visited. Cabrinha's focus has always been to produce the best products and to help people have fun on the water - and a key part of that is the synergy within the team. We have two main locations, the Brand HQ in Maui and the Commercial HQ in Miami, but we work as one unit. We are colleagues but, more importantly, Cabrinha family who all share the same stoke and passion for what we do."

FRANCES RIVERA, EXPORTS MANAGER
(CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL SOUTH AMERICA)





KENT MARINKOVIC, ASI CEO

One of the highlights of the trip was watching Frances Rivera buzz the bridge. She's such a passionate kiter and rips fearlessly hard. She'd never tried going under the bridge, and there was a huge amount of potential for things to go wrong given the number of boats going through and the wind shadow. She nailed it for the first time ever, and the show of elation on her face, I think, said it all. This is the commitment and passion she takes into her role as Exports Manager working with partners. It's simply infectious, and I found myself whooping and hollering like a madman as she came through; it was actually hard to keep the camera stable!

“ SHE'S SUCH A PASSIONATE KITER AND RIPS FEARLESSLY HARD. ”

Andalucía | Diputación de Cádiz | PATRONATO PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO | TARIFA | Tarifa

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A vibrant, multi-colored demo RV (red, orange, yellow, and teal) is parked outdoors. A man in a white t-shirt and blue shorts is holding a small brown dog. A woman in a white tank top and shorts stands next to him, and another man in a white t-shirt and shorts stands to the right, pointing towards the RV. The RV has a large blue and white logo on its side and a surfboard mounted on the back.

THE CABRINHA US ROAD TRIP CONTINUES...
THE DEMO RV IS SHARING GOOD VIBES ACROSS
THE US ALL SUMMER LONG!

“ IN THE TIME I WAS THERE, WE’D HAD GOOD SURF FOILING, KITE FOILING, WING FOILING AND BIG AIR BOOSTING SESSIONS WITH THE ENTIRE TEAM. ”

Miami is a very eclectic and vibrant city. It is very different to Maui, the style of living is a lot faster paced, and people really know how to burn the candle at both ends. This translates to fun 24 hours a day and a great way to spend time on holiday. I can't forget to mention the incredible Mexican food that I was able to enjoy with the team during some evenings off. Being from the UK, we don't see this style of cuisine very often. I was blown away.

I say it a lot, and I know sometimes it sounds cliché, but the Cabrinha staff are something else. It's so friendly and fun, whether working or hanging out outside of work; everyone is so passionate about watersports and just being around the water. This translates to a great working ethic and a team that is very collaborative with their own thoughts and ideas always brought to the table across sales, marketing and product development. In the time I was there, we'd had good surf foiling, kite foiling, wing foiling and big air boosting sessions with the entire team. It's these deep-rooted passionate connections with staff that have steered the brand throughout the last 20+ years and culminated in the cutting edge product that hit the market. It's this same passion that moves an office 30 minutes closer to the water to make sure the after-work session is that much more possible.

What's new in 2022? The IKSURFMAG Test Team has tracked down some of the latest gear to hit the market, and put them to the test! What's on the menu in Issue 93? We've got the new version of North's 'desert island kite', Cabrinha's versatile Moto, and a solid selection of boards from CrazyFly, Future, and Duotone. Find out what we thought about Ion's premium wetsuit range and the minimalist Ether harness from AK Durable Supply Co. Turn the page to see our reviews on the latest kitesurf gear!

KITES

North Reach
Cabrinha Moto

BOARDS

CrazyFly Raptor
Extreme
Future Macho
Duotone Jaime
Duotone Fish D/LAB
Duotone Wam D/LAB

ACCESSORIES

AK Ether Harness
Ion Amaze Select Wetsuit
Ion Seek Select Wetsuit



TRIED & TESTED

BRAND NORTH

MODEL REACH

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2022



"FOR A KITE THAT IS DESIGNED FOR ALL ASPECTS OF KITEBOARDING, IT REALLY SHINES IN EVERY WAY!"



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

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

AT A GLANCE

In 2022, we saw North Kiteboarding bring the 3rd edition of the Reach to market. Your 'Desert Island Kite' is the go-to kite in the range that does everything exceedingly well. It's a lively and playful three strut kite with exceptional wind range, it shoots upwind, and it is now lighter than ever before.

For 2022 North has introduced a new lighter Dacron Exo-skeleton in every size with a revised arc design. It's a 3-strut design with a medium-high aspect ratio. With these pairings, they've produced a kite that's snappier on the turns, super responsive, and easily relaunches with super-efficient direct steering.

The canopy includes premium Teijin D2 Ripstop Fabric. This fabric has the highest strength to weight ratio out there, giving your Reach the durability it deserves! Across the kite, there are lightweight reinforcements to protect areas such as the struts and leading edge. You'll also see the Reach has Kevlar reinforcements, which provide a durable connection. North has placed the reinforcements where the kite needs them most, ensuring those areas of the kite won't see damage.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND CABRINHA

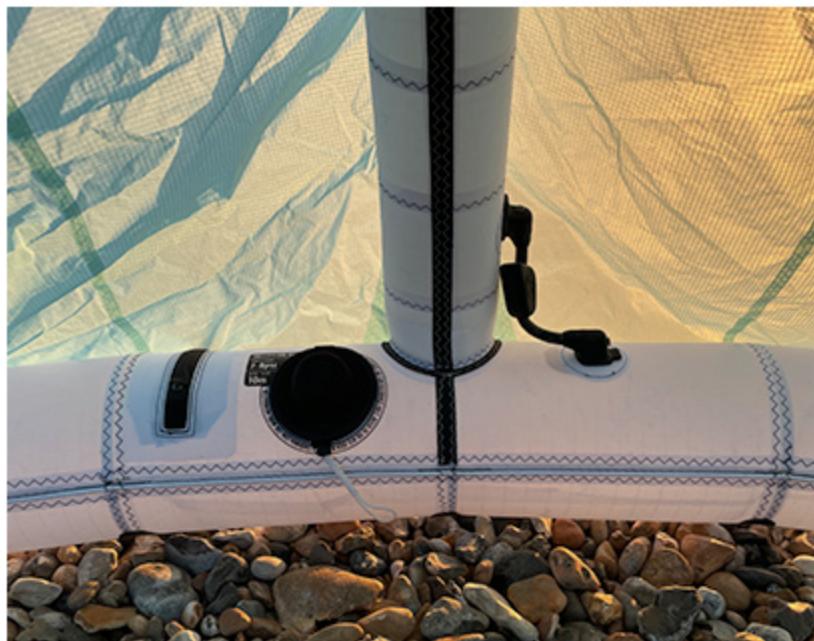
MODEL MOTO

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2022



"THE EASE OF USE OF THE MOTO MAKES IT THE IDEAL KITE FOR ANYONE, FROM BEGINNER TO FIRST JUMPS AND INITIAL RUNS ON FOIL."



AT A GLANCE

The 02 Moto from Cabrinha is the newest iteration of the much-loved Moto.

Cabrinha has been one of kitesurfing's longest and most well-respected brands since 1999, originally headed by kiting pioneer Pete Cabrinha. Based in Maui, which is considered by many the Mecca of kiting, Cabrinha has been developing kites right at the epicentre of innovation.

Cabrinha is also trying to reduce their carbon footprint, recently using a bio-based Dyneema for all of their control bars. They have also implemented recycling old kite bags and making new ones out of them. Back in 2018, the Moto won the IKSURFMAG's best light wind kite and has gone from strength to strength ever since.

The Moto has a smooth, Pure Arc Segments leading edge. This means that the kite does not have the leading edge divided and stitched together in sections. Instead, the Moto has quite the contrast, being fabricated from a smooth one-piece arc. This makes the aerodynamics of the kite extremely efficient, as air can flow seamlessly over the leading edge without being impeded by different sections of the leading edge.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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

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BRAND CRAZYFLY

MODEL RAPTOR EXTREME

SIZE 138 X 42

YEAR 2022

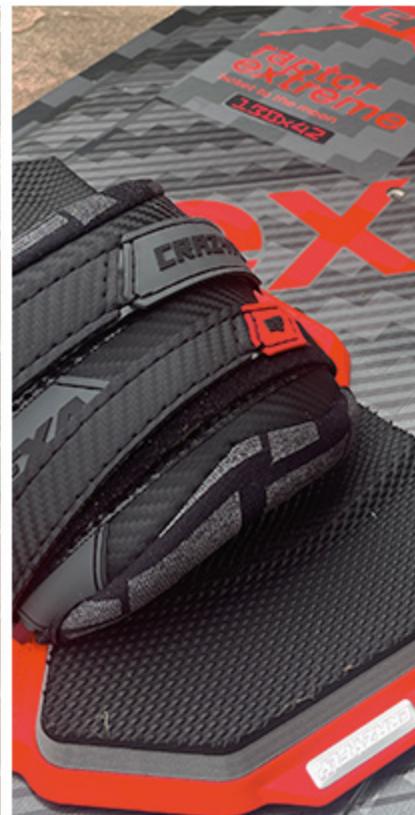


"A BOARD THAT CAN HELP GIVE YOU THOSE EXTRA METRES IN THE AIR WHILST ALSO OFFERING A COMFORTABLE RIDE."



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AT A GLANCE

The Raptor Extreme is CrazyFly's best-selling board across the range. The board has been designed and developed alongside big air world champion Posito Martinez and is your ticket to the moon!

2022 sees CrazyFly bring a brand-new shape to the board. The board consists of a full carbon layup, so it is both lightweight and durable. CrazyFly wanted the board to have maximum pop, and the tip area has been designed to offer better take-off. The board has an edge control track on the base giving the rider better grip and plenty of control. The board's base also features a 'bottom sheet grind base' – this is something wakeboards see but gives great durability.

Microchannels beneath the board assist in blasting upwind better and help disperse water more effectively. Nano Skin Glide technology gives great gliding properties and provides quicker speeds which can help you time that all-important jump.

The board can be used with both straps and boots. To test, we have the straps, and they were extremely comfortable, with plenty of options to choose from for comfort.

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BRAND FUTURE

MODEL MUCHO

SIZE 142 X 43

YEAR 2022

"THE CRUISEY NATURE OF THE BOARD MAKES IT GREAT FUN FOR ALL ABILITIES!"



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

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AT A GLANCE

Future Kiteboarding was established in 2008. Originally, Future was manufacturing kites as well as boards; however, in 2017, they discontinued kites to focus solely on boards, both for wakeboarding and kiteboarding. In 2019, Future Kiteboarding partnered with renowned ski manufacturer, Kästle. This brand distinguishes itself by producing and developing market-leading technologies for its skis. Any skiers out there will know what I mean! The fact that Future gets to share the factory with this company, hence using the same technology and production lines, is a huge breakthrough for this kiteboarding brand.

The Mucho was designed and developed by Martin Harvik. The construction of the board has a radical convex shape on the bottom, which has been adequately termed a "fish belly" by Future. The two distinctive rails taper off in the middle, which strengthens the bottom of the board.

The Mucho's base is made of basalt, which is super resistant. The basalt is very stiff, allowing the manufacturer to make the board thin and light.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL JAIME

SIZE 139 X 42

YEAR 2022



"IT'S CLEAR WHY THE JAIME IS ONE OF KITEBOARDING'S MOST POPULAR TWIN TIPS - AND IN 2022, IT DELIVERS ONCE AGAIN!"



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

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



AT A GLANCE

Arguably the most popular twin tip to ever grace the kiteboarding scene, the Jaime is back and better than ever in both the standard and SLS construction. Responsible for the evolution of board design, the Jaime is a perfect match for those who seek a fit for freeride and freestyle.

By the way, in case you were wondering, the model name is pronounced "Hi-may", not "JAY-mee"!

The board consists of a polywood core with Duotone's premium construction advantages. Carbon beams run through the board, enhancing performance when on the water. Paired with the use of Carbon Web, this creates a light but very robust and durable board, offering good take off 'pop' for those freestyle manoeuvres. The torsional stiffness/flex allows the rider to have more grip, better upwind performance and smoother landings whilst the general medium flex gives the perfect amount of power, control and comfort.

Grab rails feature along the rails of the board whilst the base sees quad channelling run from tip to tail.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL FISH D/LAB

SIZE 5'3"

YEAR 2022



"THE FISH D/LAB IS AN INCREDIBLY VERSATILE BOARD TO HAVE IN YOUR QUIVER."



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

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



AT A GLANCE

The Fish was an instant hit from Duotone when it hit the market a few years ago, replacing the popular Nugget light wind wave board. The focus was to make more of a surf orientated board, still capable of handling light wind conditions but much better at riding in the waves. The shape of the board is old school meets new school with a retro fish style outline, featuring a wide nose and swallow tail. That's where the old school ends, and the new school takes over. The Duotone Fish has a flat rocker and deep channels underneath with grab rails on the top deck.

Built in the D/LAB construction, it features a Reflex Memory Foam underfoot to absorb the chop and impacts. This material also, as the name suggests, has a memory and can return to its true form, keeping your board looking good for longer. Any heel dents should eventually pop back out; clever stuff! There is also a Carbon Beam to improve the responsiveness of the board, and it is wrapped in an Innegra Shield, which makes it exceedingly durable while keeping the weight low.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL WAM D/LAB

SIZE 5'9"

YEAR 2022



"A CLASSIC SURFBOARD SHAPE THAT DELIVERS A CLASSIC RIDE IN ALL CONDITIONS, NO MATTER YOUR ABILITY."



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

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



AT A GLANCE

The Wam is a classic in the Duotone stable; it's been around longer than most of us have been kiteboarding. It's a modern take on a traditional shape, and over the years, it has evolved to be one of the best all-round surfboards on the market. With a squash thumb tail, thruster set up, and pointy nose, it's capable in anything you care to throw at it. The wide point is pushed a little further forwards to bring it up to speed with a modern twist, but to the casual eye, it's a surfboard at heart.

Built in the D/LAB construction, it features a Reflex Memory Foam underfoot to absorb the chop and impacts. This material, also as the name suggests, has a memory and can return to its true form, keeping your board looking good for longer. Any heel dents should eventually pop back out, which is some pretty clever tech! There is also a Carbon Beam to improve the responsiveness of the board, which is wrapped in an Innegra Shield, making it super durable while keeping the weight low.

Sizes: 5'7" and 5'9"

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND AK DURABLE SUPPLY CO. MODEL ETHER V2 SIZE XS YEAR 2022

" IT'S MINIMALIST,
COMPACT,
COMFORTABLE,
STYLISH, AND
TRAVELS LIKE A
CHAMPION. "



AT A GLANCE

I've said it once (or twice, or three times), and I'll say it again: AK Durable Supply Co. has a unique approach to product development within the watersports industry, and I'm here for it! I love seeing what comes out of the workshop, and the new AK Ether waist harness has been on my radar for years.

Years, you say? But for a newly released product? Well, the AK Durable Supply Co. crew doesn't do things halfway. This product has been years in the making because it is such a unique design that getting it right was the key. The V2 version has put a little polish on what was already an impressive harness.

The Ether is a minimalist harness that is super light. It takes up minimal space in the board bag while still offering ergonomic lumbar support using their 3D ergonomically shaped load plate and what they call Fly-Line load distribution technology. If you took apart an Ether harness, you would find a web of lines designed to offer insane support without increasing bulk.



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

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BRAND ION MODEL AMAZE SELECT SIZE 5/4 BACK ZIP YEAR 2022



"ION'S NEXT-LEVEL MATERIALS ARE EXTRA FLEXIBLE, INCREDIBLY COMFORTABLE, AND DRY SUPER FAST."



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

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



AT A GLANCE

I recently had the opportunity to test the all-new Amaze Select 5/4 Back Zip from Ion, a wetsuit that is absolutely loaded with tech and features that make their premium wetsuit worth its weight in gold!

In 2022, Ion suits have a few new features that are especially exciting. First up is the new Max_Flex fabric. This cutting-edge material is utilised in the arms and shoulder to offer what might be considered a ridiculous amount of flexibility. The state-of-the-art outside lining offers 30% more stretch than other materials while applying the same force. A way to test that is to take a Max_Flex wetsuit like the Amaze Select and another neoprene wetsuit and stretch the sleeve. Use the same amount of force on each one, and the difference in stretch with the Max_Flex material will be very noticeable. I did this test on my dining table, and it was nice to see what I'd read in marketing materials proven in reality!

Next up on the high tech lineup is Ion's Graphene_Plush inner lining, used throughout the torso and legs.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND ION

MODEL SEEK SELECT

SIZE 4/3 BACK ZIP

YEAR 2022



" THE FLEXIBILITY AND COMFORT OF THIS SUPER WARM WETSUIT WAS SERIOUSLY IMPRESSIVE. "



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

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



AT A GLANCE

With so many kite specific wetsuits to choose from, where does one begin? Finding the wetsuit that is right for you can be a challenge, especially if you don't have a whole day to spend going from shop to shop and trying them all on! Luckily, there are brands like Ion that put so much effort into developing their suits that you could be forgiven for not shopping around!

At first glance, the new Ion Seek Select in the 4/3 Back Zip model looks super sleek. It's a clean design without too much fuss, though there is a lot of hidden technology beneath the surface. With Max_Flex in the arms and shoulders, this wetsuit promises uncompromising flexibility. The Graphene_Plush inner lining is so cushy and warm that it won a Nobel Prize, but also the award of Ion's warmest wetsuit ever.

With even more features like ultra slim Power_Seams and highly elastic Maki_Tape 2.0, reinforced seams, shin guards, water barriers, and a lot more, there is a laundry list of features that make this wetsuit worth its price tag.

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SPRING 2022



SOUTH AFRICAN SUMMER - DYLAN WICHMANN

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TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE



Well, Ladies and Gents, if you're up in the Northern hemisphere, the 5/3s are well and truly out to pasture. The sun cream no longer feels like overkill, the winds are blowing and, for the fortunate, travel is on. Nothing beats the fun, frustration and eventual festivity of working on something new, so here are our offerings as we head into long days and evening sessions. First up, the never-ending toeside journey continues. In this issue, we're looking to transform your toe to heel wobble into a legitimate carve – prepare to chuck buckets! Then, for those of you working on spicing up your air game, we have an absolute nugget in the shapely form of a sent, inverted back roll. Off-axis rotations with no-nonsense embellishments look da shizzle and feel just so damn wonderful. Enjoy the process and celebrate the outcome! :) C&K

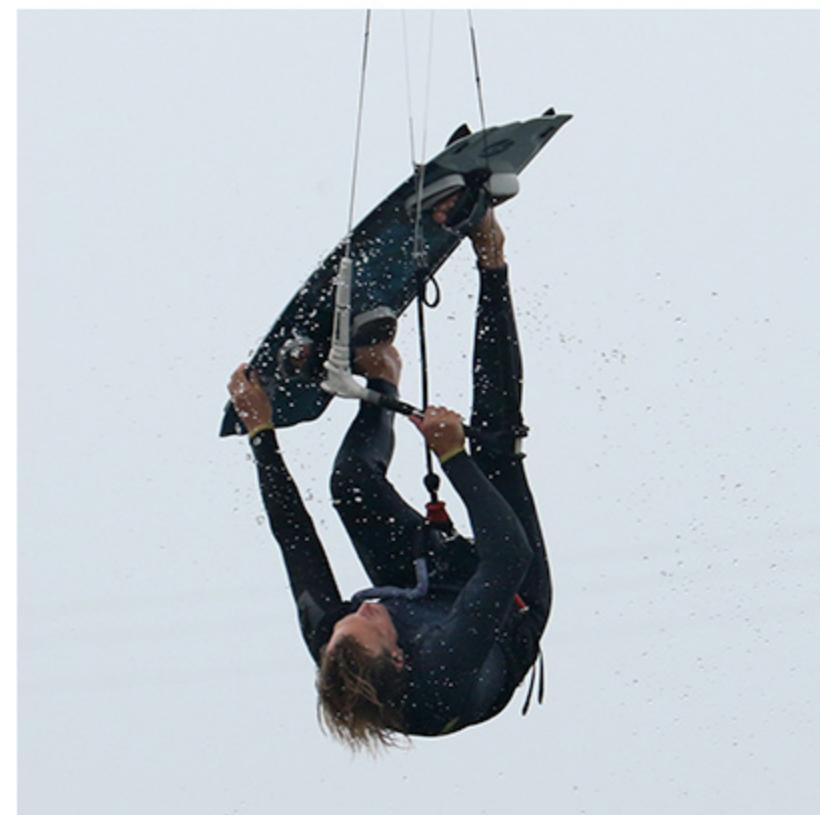
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1 / TWIN TIP TOE TO HEEL CARVE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

2 / INVERTED GRABBED BACK ROLL



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

TWIN TIP TOE TO HEEL CARVE ▶

KITE – Cabrinha Switchblade 10m

BOARD – X-CAL 138

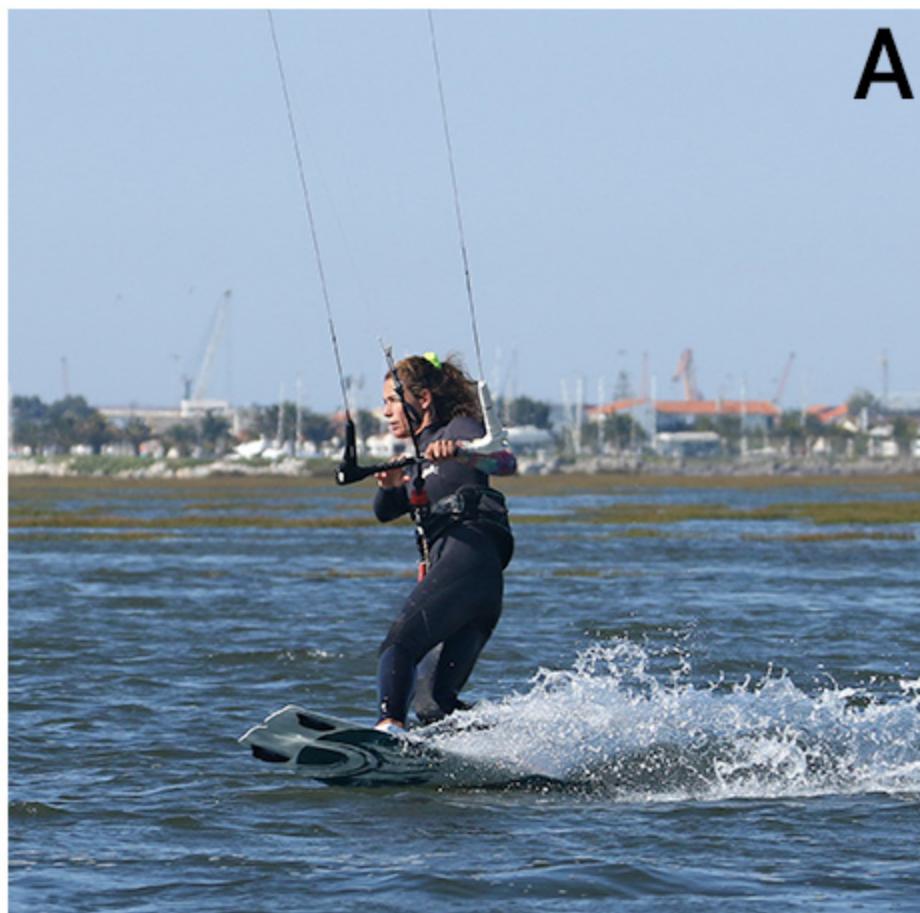
The Toe to Heel Carve has the potential to become one of your absolute favourite moves. Ignored by many as a practical solution to changing direction, this bad boy unquestionably opens the doors to a world of plumage, throwing down buckets, photo opportunities and soaking your kite buddies.

However, before we oversell the future, you need to set the fundamentals of a controlled Toe to Heel Carve solid. Once nailed, the polishing can begin.

It's quite likely that you've already got some form of Toe to Heel in your armoury. In the early stages of toeside, the kite had that rather annoying habit of sneaking up and encouraging you to transition when all you wanted was to go straight. It probably and gradually became second nature, sneaking your weight back whilst gingerly steering the kite and pivoting around to follow it. Well, today, we're going to revisit and revamp that nightmare of old into the most delightful, flowing and, of course, intentional carve. Game on.

SET UP & APPROACH PIC A

Your now well-honed toeside, of course! We've given toeside a lot of attention recently, and if you haven't yet watched *How To Fix Your Toeside*, then go and have a look. Any and every toeside side trick, transition and manoeuvre need the same solid toeside to start. This means you'll have your bearings on a good upwind edge, the board is happy,



your body is ready, and you'll have tension in the lines and, therefore, control of your kite. You're set. Have a look at Karine in Pic A. Comfortable and open toe side position. She's got both hands on the bar (check your trim), her kite is parked no higher than 1 o'clock, and she's had a good look to make sure that it's safe to turn.

KITE FIRST PIC B

The sequence for your toe to heel carve is kite first, then board. The reason for this is that from an edge, you can steer the kite, whereas if you flatten your board off, you can't as you'll lose tension. It is possible to turn back to heelside with both hands on the bar; however, we're opting for the one-handed approach as it means you can control where and when you shift



your weight and therefore gives you the freedom to carve rather than be pulled about by your kite. This does, however, mean that you need to steer your kite with one hand. Make sure that your back hand is right up against the centre line and extend your thumb along the bar. Now you're ready. Just like Karine in Pic B, you can release your front hand and then start to steer the kite. Your aim is to progressively move the kite from 1 or 11 across to 11 or 1! You don't want your kite to go up over 12 but rather cut a tiny bit off the top of the window. Use your wrist to turn the kite as you would whilst body dragging, and avoid pulling the bar in past the sweet spot as you turn. You don't need to be aggressive, but you do need to get the kite turning. Karine is turning the kite with her hand and wrist whilst edging upwind and looking forward.



C

HIPS BACK PIC C

Now that your kite is moving, you need to get ready to carve. At the moment, you're edging with most of your board. To carve, you need to get your weight over the tail. Move your hips and bum back over your trailing foot, which will position your weight over the more turny tip of your board. In Pic C, Karine has moved her hips back - only her hips. There is no need to lean your body back; leave your shoulders where they are. As you do this, it may add some resistance, and the kite may try to lift you off your edge. You can counteract this by sheeting out slightly,

but make sure you keep steering the kite. Your objective is to stay on your edge in this position until you feel the kite start to move the other way. As it does, you will start to feel a downwind pull on your harness hook. This is your cue to...

FLATTEN PIC D

Bringing your weight over the board so that it flattens is the start of your carve. You're going edge to edge, but there's no avoiding the flat bit in the middle! This is actually a good thing. As you flatten, your board will start to turn. As well as initiating your turn, this will take some tension off the lines, which will



D

encourage the kite to turn across the window. It'll only go up over 12 if you're edging. This part and the timing involved are what allow you to control your carve. With practice, you'll get a feel for steering input, but for the moment, the important thing is to get your kite to turn so that it's no longer facing the direction of travel or moving up but rather even further so that it's going towards where you intend to go - back the other way. Once it is, you can flatten and move across the board. In Pic D, you can see that Karine is still steering the kite. Her derriere and weight are over the tail of her board. As such, the nose is lifting, she's on the tail, and she's all set to carve.



PIC E

With your bum back but shoulders up, you can now compress down onto your back leg, rolling your weight onto your heels. This will engage your heel side edge and get the board carving for real. There's no need for anything radical, but you do need to be dynamic. As you engage your edge, turn your head and look where you're going. With the kite cutting

across the window and your weight back, the kite will pull you around. How hard you turn will depend on how much weight you can get onto your back heel. Looking at Karine, you can see there's a split between the upper and lower body. Her upper body is balanced and upright, looking at, and controlling the kite. Her lower body is dynamic, dropping and putting force through her board.



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BACK HAND ON PIC F

With your edge in and the board turning, your aim is to steer the board round and through the carve until you're heading back in the other direction. Continue to turn your head and reach up with your free hand to grab the bar. This will force your upper body around and bring your weight forwards, putting more board in the water and tension back on the lines. Once comfortable, you can start to resist with your back leg, pushing against the board, which will encourage it around. By this stage, your kite should have flown through the window and will be heading towards the edge on its new tack. Karine has more edge in the water, she's reaching up and looking

forward, whilst her back leg is extending to turn the board further.

FINISH THE TURN PIC G

Your defining moment! Finishing the turn means getting back into your upwind stance. There are two things that will really help. The first is your head. Look where you want to go, and you'll soon find that the rest will usually follow. The second is the hand swap. Now that you've replaced what was your free hand, you can release your new front hand. This has two main benefits. Firstly, as your kite surges through the window and you edge against it, it will power up. By releasing your front hand, you'll be able to sheet out

more easily and therefore resist the kite's intention of pulling you off downwind. Secondly, you can twist and face upwind sooner, which will allow you to finish your turn quicker. As a bonus, if your kite is heading down too low, you'll be in a great position to lift it. Karine is looking upwind, she's back on her edge, hand leading, loads of board in the water and kite under control. Once everything feels hunky dory, you can place your front hand back on the bar.

TOP TIPS

It's always better to start gently! However, if you turn the kite too slowly, it'll end up high, and you'll have no power to carve, which is not the end of the world.





In fact, it'll be much like the unintentional turns of old. Don't be afraid of setting your kite a bit lower than 1 or 11, as this will help you turn the kite before it ends up too high. Then you can build up, giving it a bit more each attempt.

The arc of your carve will depend on how hard you steer your kite. The slower that you steer it, the longer the arc. As long as your kite cuts the top of the window. If you're lacking in power, then feel free to cut more window and steer your kite more aggressively. However, this is about line of flight. Remember that you want to turn your kite quickly but then straighten it up so that it flies across rather than dives.

To get a feeling, you can go slowly and use two hands, but beware of your sweet spot, as with two hands, you are less able to sheet out and more likely to stall the kite.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Kite goes up and lifts you. Two possibilities. Firstly, if you're too gentle steering your kite, it won't turn but will drift up to 12. If this is the case, start a bit lower and steer the kite with a bit more meaning. Secondly, if you're getting a lot of lift, it's because you are edging for too long. Turn the kite and flatten off as soon as you feel it pull.

Falling onto your bum or back. If you get the sensation that the kite pulls you over and you're not turning through your carve, this is often a result of leaning back onto your back foot with your entire body. So as soon as you turn your head, you'll have no weight on the board and leave it behind. Remember, you should just force your hips and bum back and drop your weight onto the board. This way, you'll be balanced over the board, and your input will make it turn.

Kite stalling through turn. Normally the result of pulling the bar in to steer rather than using your wrist. Practice steering the kite with one hand whilst avoiding pulling the bar towards you.

KEYSTONES

1. Kite just below 1 or 11 o'clock
2. Positive steer with back hand
3. Drop bum back
4. Flatten and roll
5. Turn head and swap hands



INVERTED GRABBED BACK ROLL ▶

KITE – Cabrinha FX2

BOARD – X-CAL 138

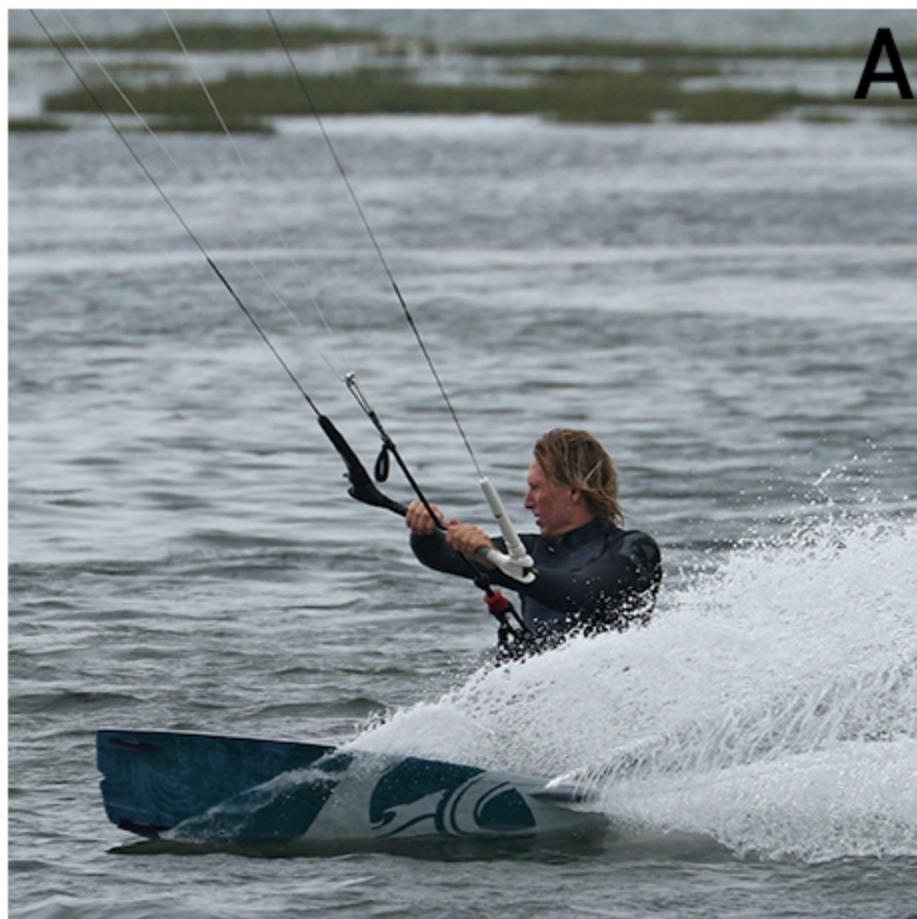
Ladies and Gents, once again, it's time to ramp up the volume on our well-worn record delighting in the Lego-like creativity of kiting - combining skills, adding a new one, the scintillating pleasure of our incredible sport. Today it's all about spicing up your back roll, and the inverted one at that. If you've mustered the effort to flip the poles whilst rolling around, adding a grab with the potential to bone it out has to be the next condiment on the menu. You'll have all the visceral joys of inverting a slow rotation whilst adding even more visual flair.

As a precursor, the inverted back roll will help. However, if you're feeling courageous and are happy with grabbing a back roll, this could well be within your reach. Your aim from the off is to perform a slowly rotated sent back roll. Adding both the inversion and grab, with your chosen branding pointing up to the satellites for longer than a fleeting moment in time, is based on this slow roll. One quick word from Mum and Dad, deep water, please!

No more beating about the bush; let's do this thing! There's no better way than to look at the key moments and how you're going to nail them.

YOUR APPROACH PIC A

At the end of the day, this is a sent back roll, and as such, you need to align the stars to give yourself some height and enough time to play out the full



choreography. You should approach on a good upwind edge, driving against both heels to get plenty of board in the water. Not only will this put tension on the lines and hopefully lead to a more vertical jump, it will also aid in your slow rotation. If you come in leaning back with the nose high, you'll carve into your take off and increase your rotation speed - the exact opposite of what you're after! From a solid position, you can give the kite a good send without the risk of your back leg going soft and spinning you even quicker. Don't wang it with reckless abandon, but do be positive enough to get some air. Here, Christian approaches on a good edge, with plenty of board in the water, and he's been positive with his bar action, sending the kite quickly. Your aim is to get the kite past 12 o'clock and then stop it there.



LIFT OFF PIC B

The most important part of this move; get the lift off right, and all the rest will seem a whole lot less difficult. This will only be possible if your approach is on the money. Your job is to take off upwards. This may sound obvious, but we assure you that the most intuitive movement when thinking ahead toward the inversion is to soften your back leg and roll back over the tail in an attempt to kick your front leg up. Although this can and will invert you, unfortunately, it will also spin you. Keep your shoulders parallel to the water as you kick off and level the bar to stop the kite moving too far back. Resist the temptation to throw your head around. If you keep it looking forwards in the same direction that your nipples are pointing, you'll find the holy grail, a slow rotation.



You can see that Christian has kicked off and up, fully extending his back leg. His shoulders are upright, his board is lifting off the water horizontal-ish, his bar is levelled to stop the kite in its tracks, and his head is looking forward. In fact, there is very little rotation so far. Things are going well.

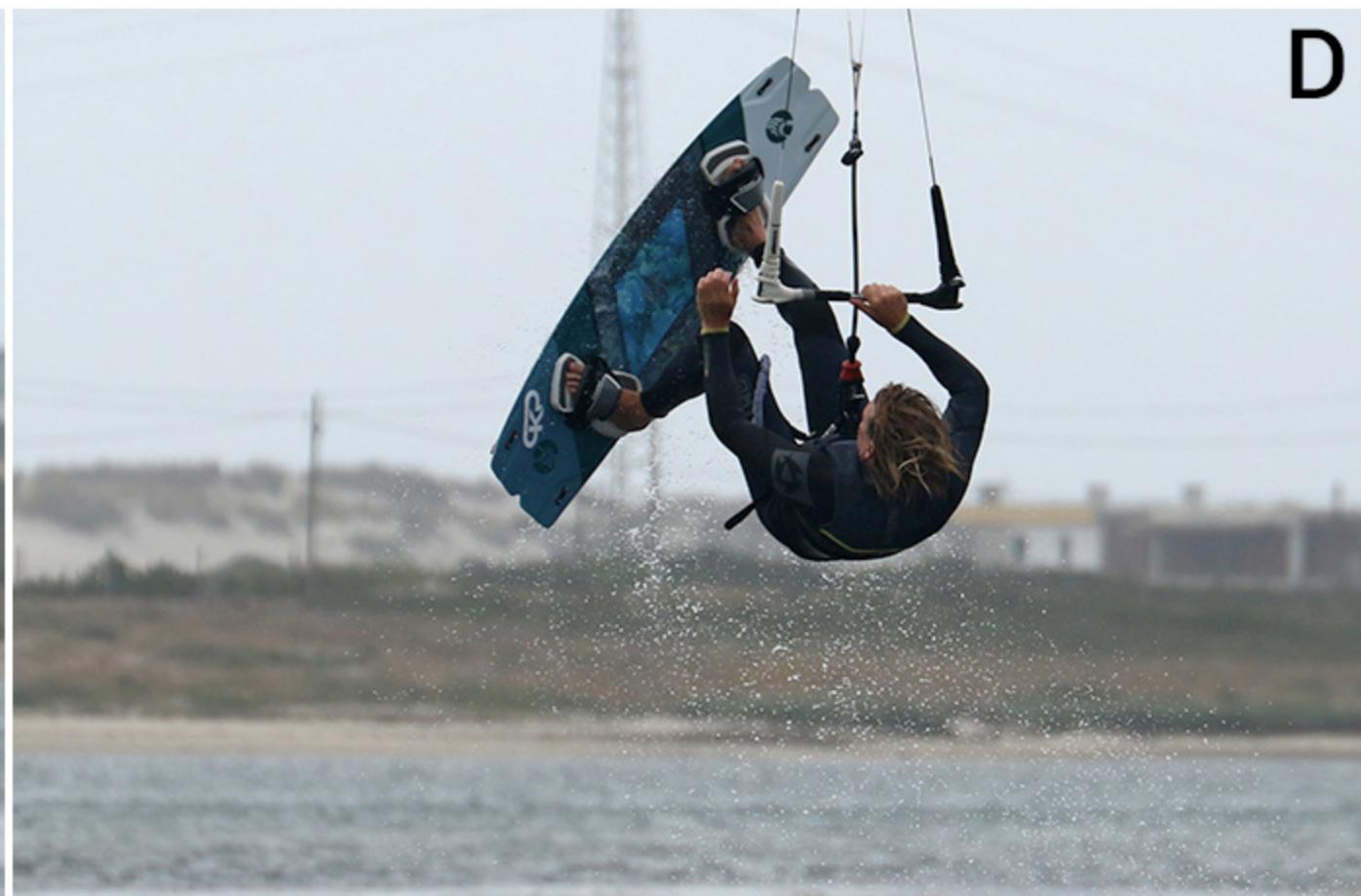
TOPSY TURVY PIC C

Once you're on the way, you have full licence to fire up your inversion. It's worth pondering that whilst all this is going on, you want to keep your kite slightly behind 12, as this will help your slow rotation and mean that you can actually momentarily stall it once you've got the grab. Keep both hands on the bar at the moment whilst keeping it in close. Bring your knees up and rock your shoulders back, using your

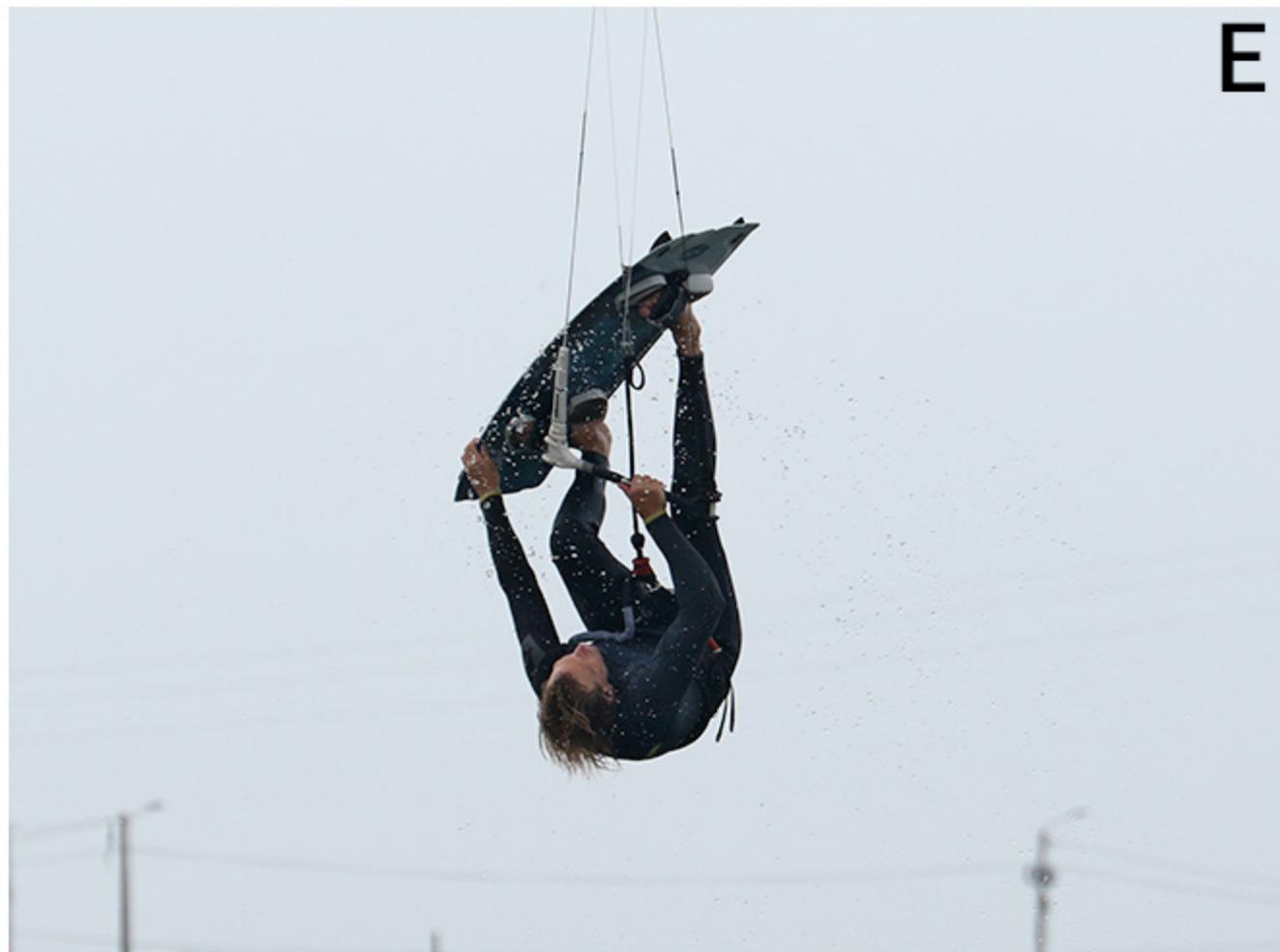
hands, bar and harness hook as your fulcrum point. With your bar in, the kite will lift your hips and make this more achievable. For a bit of extra help, you can actually push your head and shoulders away from the bar by extending your arms, using your triceps. As you roll back, look up and enjoy the view, the sky, clouds and of course, your beloved kite. This will tilt your head back and further encourage your legs up. In Pic C, you can see that Christian is fixing his gaze skywards. With both hands on the bar, he's tilting his head back, pushing against the bar and lifting his legs. Note how his head is still facing forwards, keeping the rotation slow.

GRAVITY PIC D

There is a point when the world flips. Once your feet



are high enough and your head back enough, you encounter a new world order where balance is restored, and your board is happy to continue on its upwards trajectory. Now that you no longer require huge effort to invert yourself, you can switch your attention towards what's coming next, your grab. To make it as achievable as possible, pull your back knee in towards you and release your back hand. You want to bring the board in close rather than reaching and twisting your body to make it. In Pic D, Christian is happy that his kite is parked just behind 12 o'clock. This gives him the freedom and confidence to release his back hand. As he does so, he keeps his bar in on the sweet spot to keep tension and lift. He bends his back knee, bringing the tail of the board in towards him.



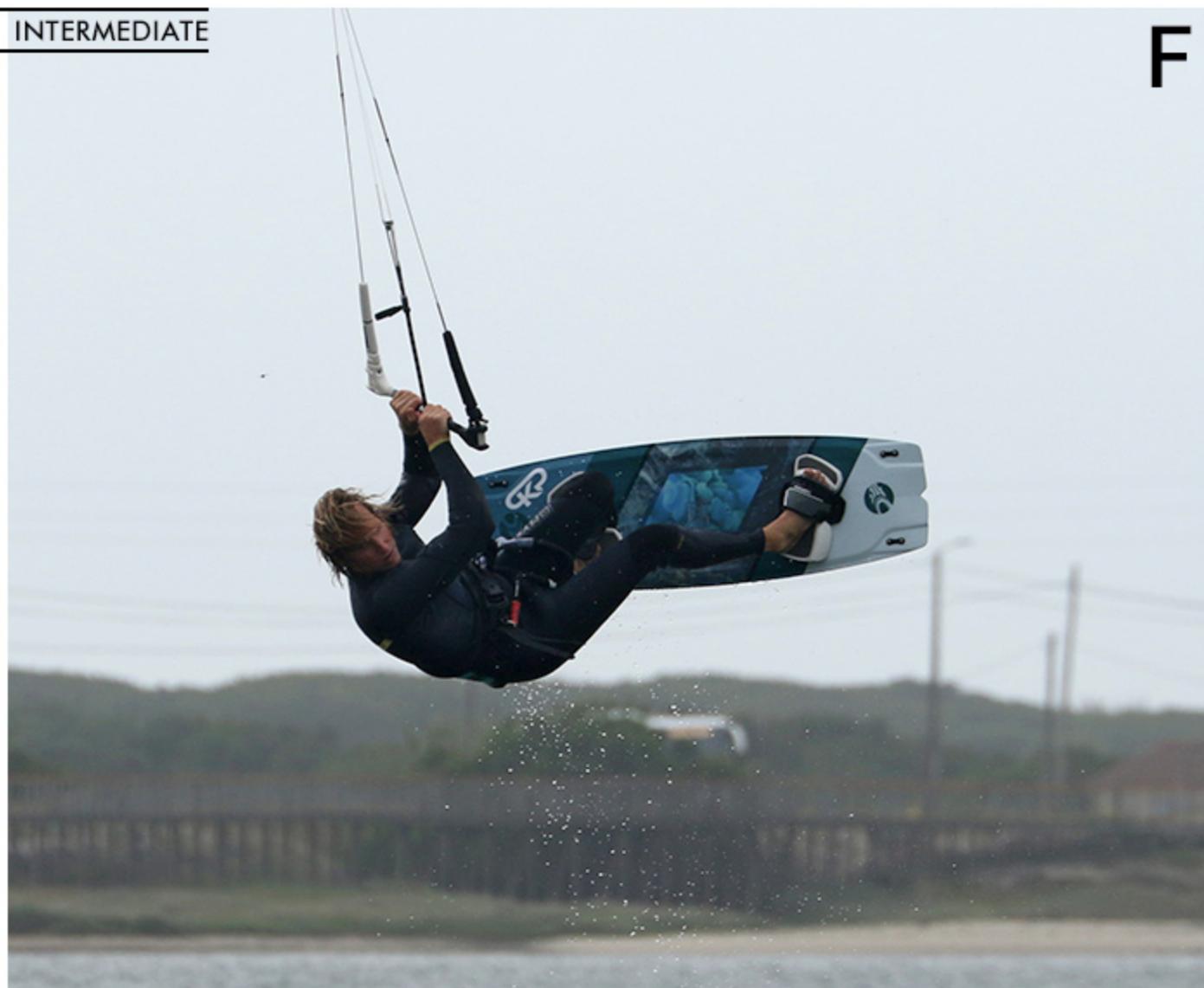
GRAB & HOLD PIC E.

Your moment of truth. As your board rolls, go for the grab. You're looking to grab the board towards the tail on your toeside edge, as this is the easiest point to reach if you're not known for your morning yoga. Once you've got hold of the board, you can pull it in and extend your front leg to give it the full bone out. Aim to rock your head back and keep your hips up with the bar in. If all goes to plan, you might even play a couple of notes as your board hits the lines. Keep looking up

looking up at the heavens, which will momentarily stall your rotation and give you even longer to pose. Having held your kite back slightly, this is the perfect moment to steer it slowly forward, which will give you that little bit more time as the kite lifts over 12. Here Christian seizes the moment, eyes gazing up to the stars, board held in close, front leg boned, hips higher than shoulders, and head still perpendicular. He's steering the kite forwards and will hold this position for as long as he dares.

COMING SOON

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RELEASE & LOOK PIC F

Once you feel yourself coming down and the lift from your kite waning, it's advisable to ponder your future and think about unravelling yourself from this new status quo. Having stalled your rotation, you'll still have a way to go. Now is the time to look for your landing, which will be somewhere behind you! Lift your head and turn to look over your front shoulder. This will slowly start you rotating again, and by lifting your head, you will bring your shoulders up and feet down. To help with your rotation, continue to steer

the kite forwards. As the kite pulls on your harness hook, it'll help pull you around. This may feel a bit odd as your feet and board get left behind whilst your upper body turns, but rest assured if the head and shoulders turn, the rest will catch up. In Pic E, Christian has lifted his head and is looking over his front shoulder, steering the kite gently forwards.

TOUCH DOWN PIC G

And as if by magic, your legs will swing under you. As you come around and can finally see where you'll



land, you can dive the kite. Once again, the pull of the kite will pull your hips forwards and swing your legs under you. Be prepared to land tail first, and be aware that it's more than likely you'll land with your weight on your heels. As long as you're pointing off the wind, it will be soft. Don't be in a rush to carve back up, but get yourself balanced and settled first. Here Christian has landed over the board but with his weight on his heels due to the late rotation. He's focused on downwind and can therefore regain balance and composure before heading back upwind.



TOP TIPS

Your take-off is everything here. Get it right, and you'll rotate slowly and have time to invert and grab. Nothing beats the time honoured method of concentrating a bit of time on your base move, a slow sent back roll, before adding on the remaining ingredients, inversion and then the grab. Concentrate on leaving your kite ever so slightly behind 12 as you rise and rotate, which will then mean that you need to give a bit more input on the bar to redirect it once you're at the apex. Have a look at the sequence to get a feel for the move from take-off to touch down.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Missing the grab. This is the result of rotating too

quickly into your back roll. Make sure that you take off upright, rotating only with your board and hips. Keep your head looking forwards and bar level. If you throw yourself into a spin, you'll really struggle to grab and invert.

Struggling to get your feet back under you and complete your rotation. It's tempting to get greedy, stalling your rotation and holding your grab for longer. If you leave it too late, it will be tricky. However, it can also happen because you're not steering the kite forward enough to pull you downwind and around the last bit. If the world stops for too long, give yourself an extra boost with some front hand steering on the bar as you gaze over your front shoulder.

KEYSTONES

1. Good send with lots of board in the water
2. Take off with shoulders level, bar level and head centred
3. Two hands to start inversion
4. Back knee in, head back and grab
5. Bone and stall, then look and dive to complete





FORTALEZA



MANCORA



CABARETE



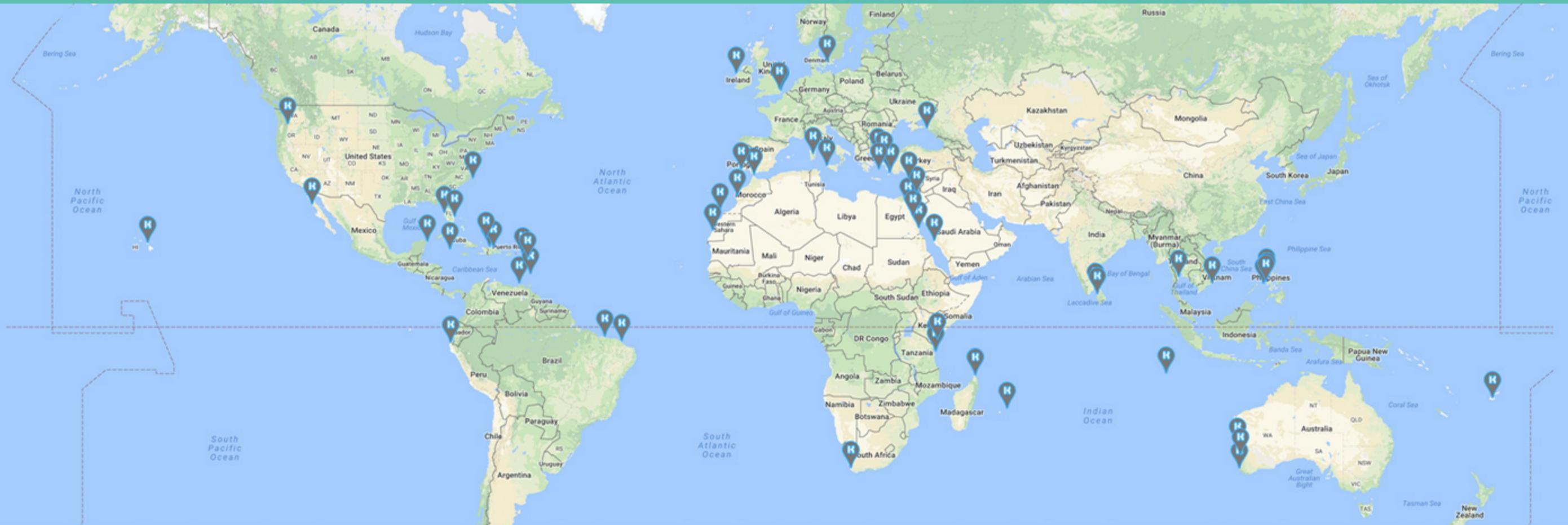
LANCELIN



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MAUI

WORDS LINDA VAN LAKWIJK PHOTOS ARTHUR SAMZUN

Six days full of action, fun, memorable moments and lots of burgers. Join the new faces of Naish Team Europe on a kiteboarding adventure in France in this IKSURFMAG article!

NAISH TEAM EUROPE - FRENCH EDITION!

RIDERS ADRIANO GAZZOLI AND NATHAN TEXIER

Three years ago, Naish Team Europe made its debut, with a few of the most incredible up-and-coming athletes on the team. Today, these young athletes are all grown up, both in their riding skills and as athletes. Meanwhile, alumni riders Stig Hoefnagel, Cohan van Dijk and Tom Seager have taken the next step and joined the Naish International team. With their advancements, they've made room for new talent to be added to the team.

Since the first season of Naish Team Europe, the boys have mostly only been able to connect via video chat and at one of the few competitions that have occurred in recent years. With very few travel restrictions left, at long last, it was time for the new edition of Naish Team Europe to meet! Riders Nathan Texier (FR), Timo Boersema (NL), Jinne Boer (NL), Adriano Gazzoli (IT), Arne Thiebaut (BE) and Teun Spliethof (NL) were ready for an adventure.

On Thursday the 28th of April, the day the boys from Naish Team Europe have been waiting for finally arrived. We were all a bit nervous, but mainly all super excited - if only because the boys had to speak English for six days, which is not a native language for any of the team! Nevertheless, the time was upon us for the new team to meet, connect and shred together.

The boys all met each other at the airport in Montpellier. From there, we drove with all the gear to Leucate. Special guests on the trip were former Naish Team Europe rider Stig Hoefnagel and local boy Louka Pitot, both riders on the Naish International team. These two know what it means to be a pro athlete and can guide the boys from Naish Team Europe on their path to hopefully grow into internationally recognised pro kites.



" THE DAY THE BOYS FROM NAISH TEAM EUROPE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR FINALLY ARRIVED. WE WERE ALL A BIT NERVOUS, BUT MAINLY ALL SUPER EXCITED "



" WHEN IT COMES TO TEAM TRIPS AND SHOOTS, YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF IT AND CATCH THE WIND WHILE IT LASTS! "

The first evening after arrival, we went for dinner as a group to get to know each other better. The tone was immediately clear; the boys are not into fancy food with ingredients they can't pronounce. As long as there is a burger on the menu, it's all good.

Over dinner, we double-checked the forecast and saw that there was a likelihood of wind the next morning. After dinner, it was time for bed with alarm clocks set at 6:00 for a sunrise session. When it comes to team trips and shoots, you've got to make the most out of it and catch the wind while it lasts!

The team woke up full of adrenaline, and without breakfast, they hit the water. The wind was stronger than expected, and we were the first kitesurfers on the water. A few meters downwind, the GKA Wingfoil World Tour was happening. We spotted a guy in a yellow vest slowly walking towards us and were a bit afraid he was from the organisation and might ask us to move more upwind. After a short chit-chat, we found out that the guy was a tourist who came for the wingfoil event but then saw a bunch of young kitesurfers shredding which looked way more spectacular to him. It was the same story for one of the photographers on the beach that day!

At the end of the morning, the wind died. It was time for a good lunch, but without any burgers on the menu, it wasn't the ideal lunch for the boys! Afterwards, there was time for some chilling at the campsite with a heated pool. Of course, there's always the admin and errands like shopping for groceries, which was up next. Pasta was on the menu! Arne was responsible for cooking dinner that evening and recruited Jinne and Nathan to help. It was Jinne's first time cutting onions, and he learned pretty quickly that they will make you cry.



“ THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER WERE HARDLY ABLE TO FOCUS, WITH ACTION HAPPENING AT EVERY ANGLE AND CONSTANT WATER SPRAY FROM THE BOYS. ”

For Nathan, it was his first time cutting bell peppers. Note to Nathan: you have to throw away the inner part! We survived the pasta, even with a few charred bits, but it did what it had to do, and we went to bed with full bellies.

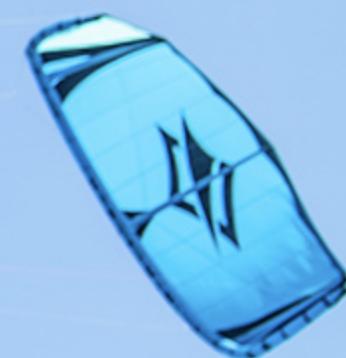
The day after, the wind was forecasted to pick up in the afternoon, so we decided to meet at mid-morning. The French Naish representative was at the spot in front of the campsite for a test event for wing and kite, which was another great learning opportunity for the crew.

Being a pro rider is not only about being a good rider, and Stig and Louka explained to the boys that being a pro also means being present at test events and talking to people

about gear. As a sponsored athlete, you are representing a brand. We spent some time at the event, had some talks with the representatives and public, and then went off for our next session as a team.

The next spot on the schedule was Le Barcares for an afternoon of shooting photos and video. The boys were jumping around all over the place and doing tricks simultaneously. The photographer and videographer were hardly able to focus, with action happening at every angle and constant water spray from the boys. In short, it was chaos!

RIDER JINNE BOER





RIDER TIMO BOERSEMA

" THE BOYS COULD PUT INTO PRACTICE WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED THAT MORNING. WE WERE STOKED TO SEE THE IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS! "

After a break with some much-appreciated burgers from McDonald's, the boys hit the water again to shoot the new Naish gear.

The next morning, we had a meeting with Stig and Louka, who shared some of their experiences with the boys about what is involved in being a pro rider, outside of just being a top-level kiter. They spoke about what off-the-water skills you can develop to be more valuable to potential sponsors and how to represent your brand in a professional way. Besides that, photographer Arthur Samzun and videographer Floris Tils selected some good shots and showed where there is room for improvement, explaining to the boys what they could do differently to get the best possible shots and to take direction from the camera crew while on the water.

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“ WHAT HIS SCARIEST EXPERIENCE IN KITESURFING WAS, WHAT A DAY IN HIS LIFE LOOKED LIKE, HIS VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF KITEBOARDING ”

RIDER NATHAN TEXIER

The next day we went to Le Barcares again so the boys could put into practice what they had learned that morning. We were stoked to see the immediate improvements! The chaotic session was a thing of the past; the boys gave each other room to do their tricks in front of the camera and listened to the photographer and videographer's instructions and tips and tricks.

Unfortunately, we didn't have any wind on the last day, and everyone had a chance to sleep in a bit later before shooting off to the cable park for some action.

That evening was a special moment for the riders. They got to meet Robby Naish and Scott Trudon (Naish Brand Manager) via video call. The boys had been asked to prepare some questions for the meeting, which they had, which led to a super informative Q&A session with the big wigs! They wanted to know if Robby was still on the water every day, what his scariest experience in kitesurfing was, what a day in his life looked like, his vision for the future of kiteboarding, and so on.

On Tuesday the 3rd of May, it was time to clean the lodges, pack all the gear and head back to the airport... Time flies when you are having fun!

Do you want to be part of Naish Team Europe?

Go to naishteameurope.com and fill in the form.

RIDER JEREMY BURLANDO
PHOTO SOULART



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Lightroom

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

LIGHTROOM

ENJOY PICTURE PERFECT CONDITIONS IN LOS ROQUES ARCHIPELAGO WITH ELLIE DIMITROVA!
PHOTO IVAN BELOMORSKI

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CAMILLE DELANNOY ATTACKING THE LIP ON HIS 2022 NORTH SURF KIT
PHOTO FRANKIE BEES

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LIGHTROOM

WHILE THIS LOOKS LIKE A HOPELESS SITUATION,
FRED HOPE IS TOTALLY IN CONTROL OF HIS UFO V2!
PHOTO ERIC DURAN

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LIGHTROOM

MARCELA WITT SENDING IT OFF A KICKER ON HER STRAPLESS BOARD!
PHOTO ANA CATARINA

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LIGHTROOM

OLLY BRIDGE WORKING HIS MAGIC WITH THE NEW FLYSURFER SOUL IN CAPE TOWN
PHOTO MIRIAM JOANNA



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RAIARII FADIER NAILING THE GRAB IN TROPICAL TURQUOISE WATER
PHOTO JULIEN LE PREVOST



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MATT MAXWELL LINING UP FOR A QUICK VISIT TO THE GREEN ROOM IN OFFSHORE WIND
PHOTO NICHOLAS SPILSBURY

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LIGHTROOM

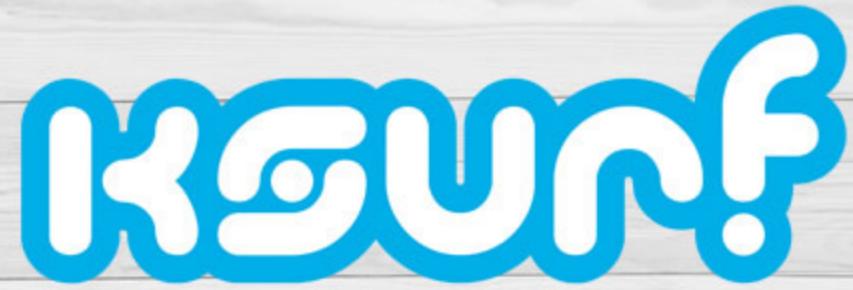
FRED HOPE EXPLORING THE COASTLINE ON FOIL, CAPTURED FROM ABOVE
PHOTO ERIC DURAN

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LIGHTROOM

NOTHING BEATS COMBINING SNOWBOARDING WITH KITESURFING AND FLYING!
HERE'S SEBASTIAN PLASENCIA SOMEWHERE IN THE SUNNY MOUNTAINS OF SWITZERLAND!
PHOTO LUKAS PITSCH

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The logo for Ksurf, featuring the word "Ksurf" in a stylized, rounded font. The letters are white with a thick blue outline. The background of the entire advertisement is a light-colored, horizontally-plank wooden wall.

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On The Fly

NEW RELEASE // AIRUSH ULTRA TEAM

Just announced, but not officially on the market, the new Airush Ultra Team is already turning heads! Check out the sneak peek video and hear from rider Elias Ouahmid who was the star of the shoot!



Elias Ouahmid: "I mainly use the Ultra Team for foiling in light wind conditions. If I can't use the 12m for foiling, it's because there is no wind at all. But I also got myself a 17m Ultra Team to be able to do some freestyle tricks on the twin tip in light wind. All in all, I've got to tell you that I fell in love with the kite when I used it for the first time! The amount of energy, speed and power the kite generates is unreal.

It's clearly an Ultra because of the one strut design and the foil performance, but the Ultra Team is simply better in every way. The Ultra was focused on foiling and riding a directional, and the Ultra Team works for everything. The kite flies better and faster in light wind and is a proper all-rounder in stronger wind. I even did kite loops on it in Cape Town, and they felt really good. I remember Gijs doing shortline kitemoops on it and going crazy!

The shoot was funny from the beginning onwards. The suit was super unique, 1mm thick, and my feet were covered as well. The struggle was that when water ran into the suit it didn't run out! I had to lie on the beach and put my feet up to get the water to run out!

Stay tuned for the official release of the Airush Ultra team!

PHOTOS FRANKIE BEES



On The Fly

MARLEY FRANCO // LIVING THE GROM DREAM

At only 12 years old, Marley Franco is already a pro kiter and valued member of the North Kiteboarding International Team! We are blown away by this kid's talent, not just in kitesurfing but in all water, wind, and board sports. We catch up with Marley Franco to find out what it's like living the grom dream!

Marley, it is crazy to see how much talent you have shown at such a young age and how your watersports career has progressed. You are, without a doubt, living the grom dream! Tell us how it all began!

The first water sport I started with was surfing and bodyboarding in the shore break at Sugar Cove. Before I can remember, my parents took me out on a bodyboard, then on their surf and SUP boards in the little waves. I have seen lots of pictures. I don't remember how old I was, but I think I was around one year old when they first took me out.

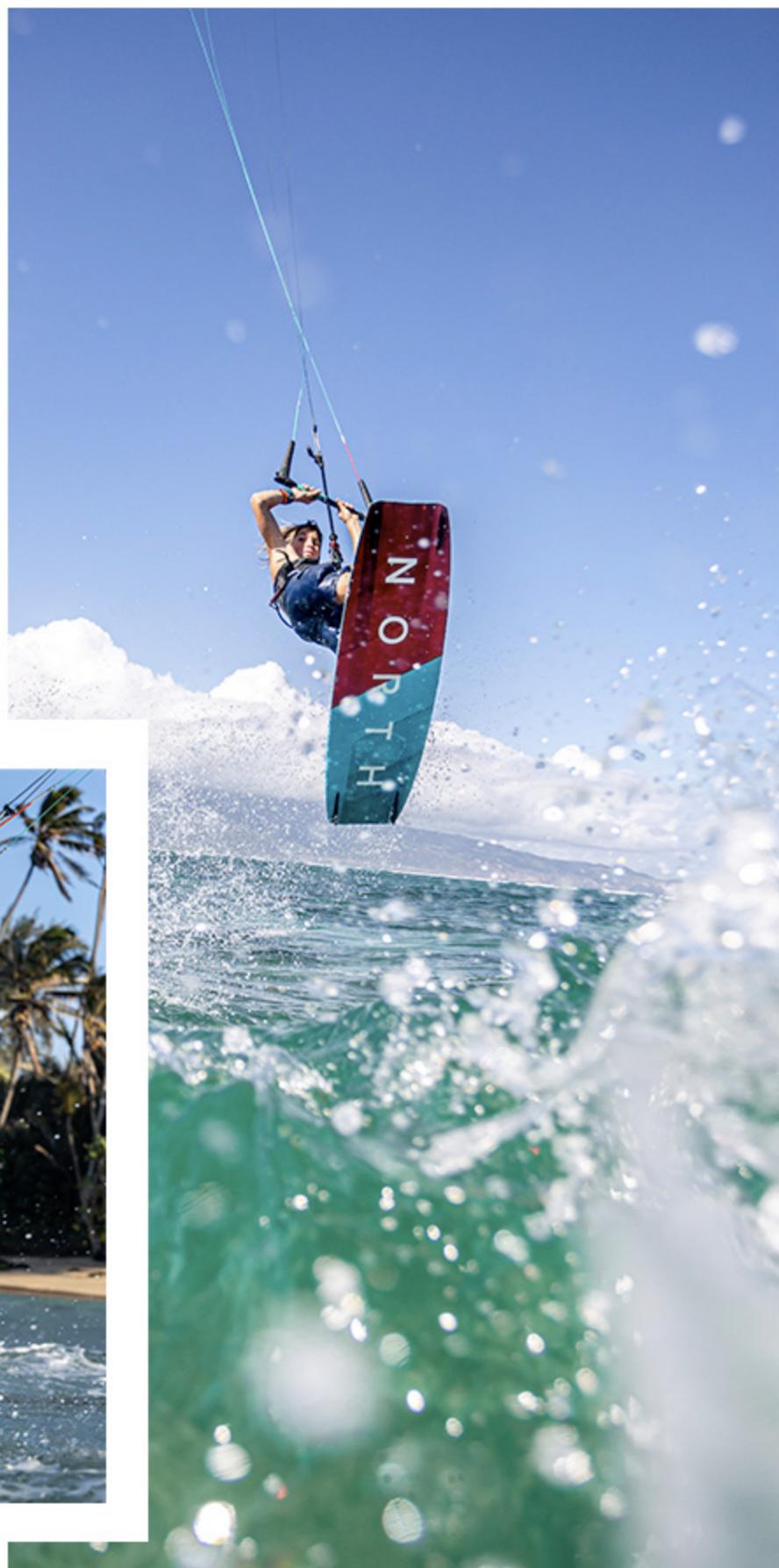
I was around six when I first started flying using a trainer kite. My dad used to take me out on his kiteboard, and we would ride, where I would stand between his legs, and we would do jumps. It was super fun! My parents didn't rush me into kiting; they took their time with me, and we went when the winds were not so crazy. We did a lot more surfing and stand up paddling. It was definitely my parents that got me into kiting; they both taught me.

Did you find kiting easy or challenging? You were pretty small when you got into it – what kite sizes were you riding?

At first, kiting was pretty tough for me because the winds are always nuking on Maui. My parents wanted me to weigh more before flying a real kite, and the smaller kites just weren't the best yet for safety. It was also hard to find something smaller than a 5m that was stable. My parents made me a smaller bar, and we used shorter lines to start. I didn't really understand much, but then I got the hang of it the more I did it. I was pretty small and didn't weigh much when I started kiting. I'm still pretty small now. I was mostly riding 3m and 4m kites. Now I am riding the North Reach 4m and 5m a lot.

On The Fly

MARLEY FRANCO LIVING THE GROM DREAM



PHOTOS FRANKIE BEES



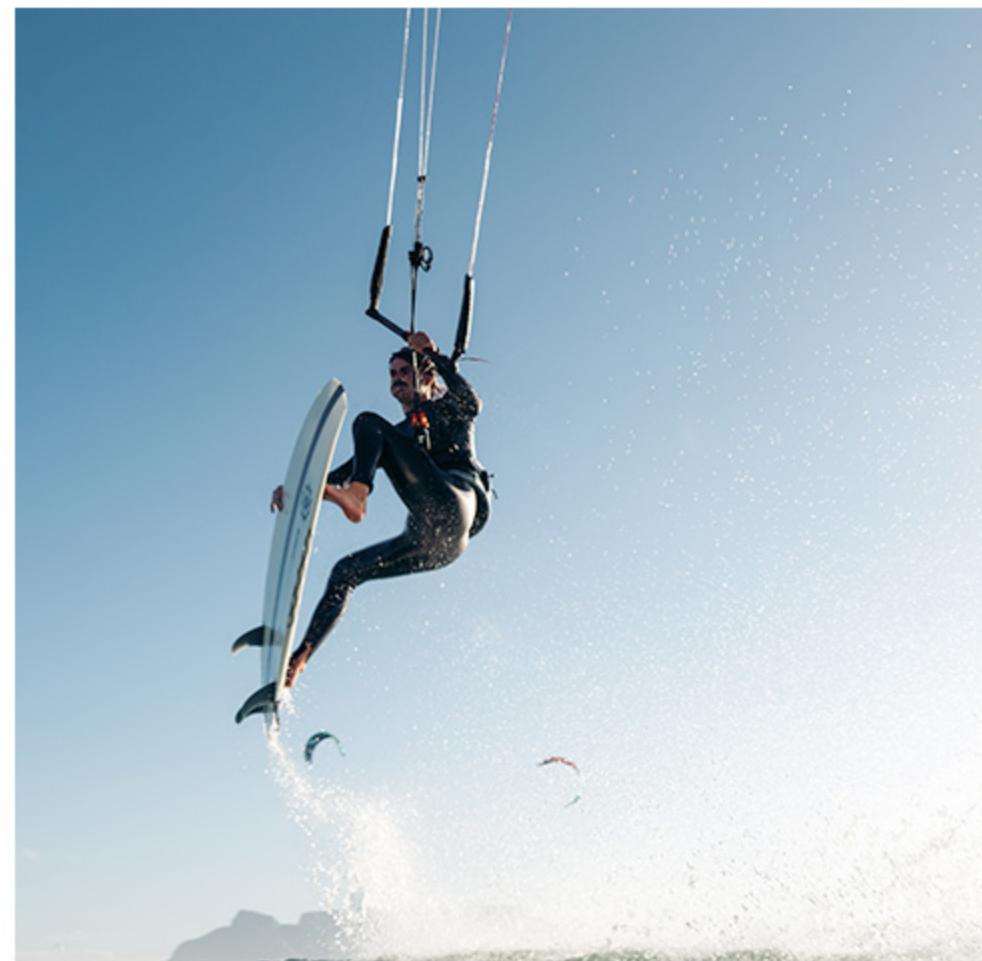
Your family has been a major inspiration for you and so supportive of your growth in kitesurfing. What does a Franco family session look like?

My parents are a big inspiration for me because they taught me how to kite, and they show me all these cool old pictures of them kiting. Mostly when we go to the beach as a family, we will all be winging or kiting together. My dad will jump over us if we are winging while he's kiting, and we goof around a lot, towing each other on foil boards or surfboards or trying fun different things. So it's pretty cool how I can do wind sports with my parents!

Tell us about how you got linked up with North Kiteboarding!

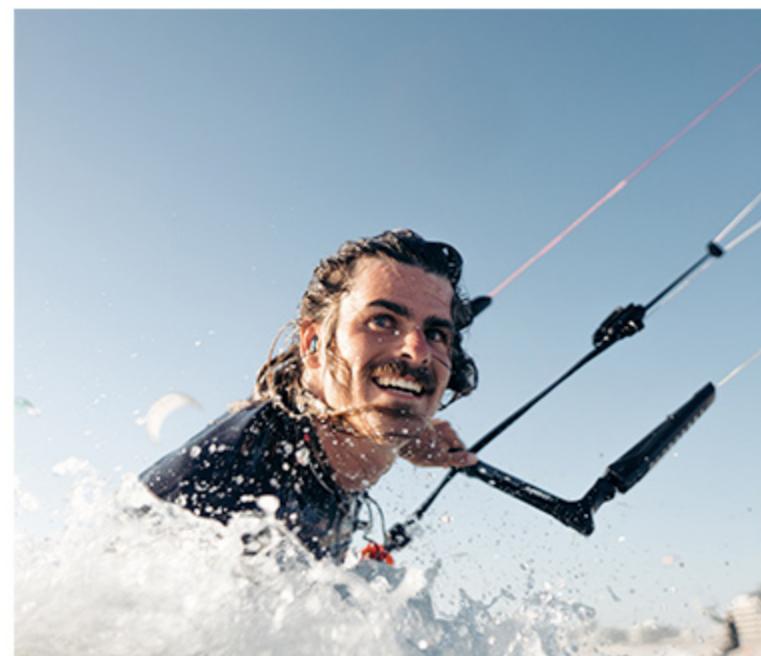
I first got linked up with North Kiteboarding through Jesse Richman on the Next GEN program. I was super lucky he chose me as his grom to mentor. From there, I made it onto the international team for wingfoiling and began doing photo shoots for kiting and winging with them. It's been awesome working with the North and Mystic team; I feel like now we will keep progressing together.

Want to read the full interview? Head over to our website to learn more about the life of Marley Franco!



SOUTH AFRICA // ALESSANDRO D'AMBROSIO

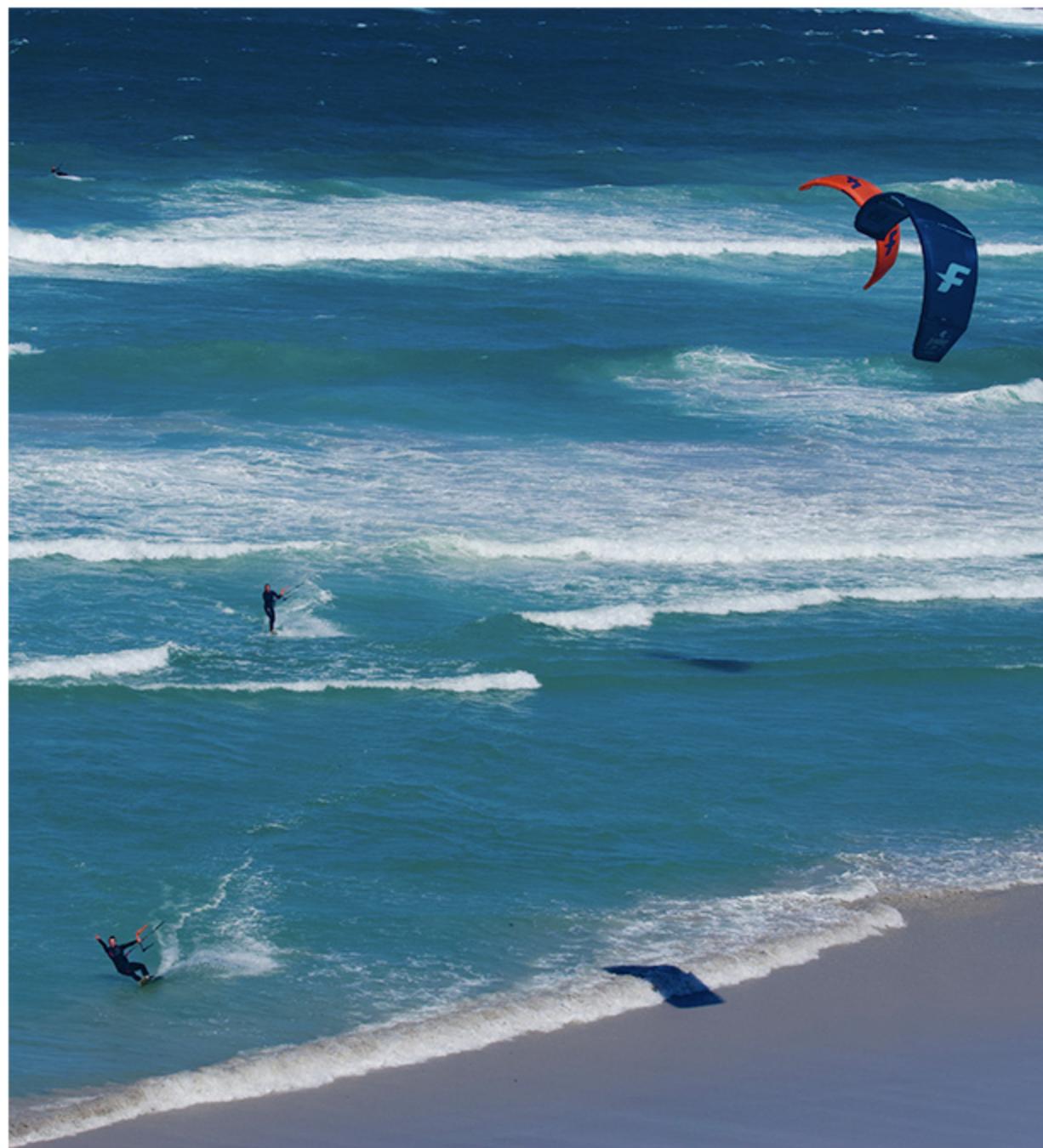
Windy season has come to an end in South Africa, and all the Cape Town locals have been searching high and low for wind, whether it's in Europe, Northern Africa, or further afield. Alessandro, known around his local beaches as Ally, has been staying local, taking advantage of the lack of wind to surf in SA's famous winter swell. With a solid set of surf skills, it's no wonder he's so talented on a directional kitesurf board! Keep an eye out for this stylish shredder on his Slingshot kite during your next visit to Blouberg's windy beaches!



On The Fly

MEET THE ZIJLSTRA SISTERS //

Two new faces on the ladies big air scene made their competitive debut at the recent Full Power Tarifa event. Gretha and Elsie Zijlstra, hailing from the Netherlands, blew us away with their performance at their first-ever event! We had to know more about these women and what brought them to the world of big air..



They shared their experience at Full Power Tarifa with us:

In January this year, we quit our jobs and started to train our asses off to become female big air kite pros! Our journey started in Cape Town with a couple of months of dedicated training. We invested this time in accelerating our growth curve. We were on the water everyday, admittedly overdoing it, and did plenty of physical training on an almost entirely vegan-diet - out of love for our planet and its oceans.

MEET THE ZIJLSTRA SISTERS //



Full Power Tarifa was our first competition. We could lean on previous acrobatic competition experience, but there were also a lot of unknowns. We had to figure out how the scoring system worked, how we would deal with the pressure of people watching us, and what would happen if you crash your kite (which actually happened in the first heat, thank god for our caddy). Another big difference compared to what we were used to, is to go full out in these extreme conditions without warming-up. To pull boogie loops in these wild conditions for the first time was the greatest and scariest thing in the world. Being upside down higher than we've ever been before in super strong winds is mind blowing.

The advancement of the woman in big air and the way they push themselves is inspiring. The best example is how Pippa makes it to the finals with her injured knees and shows so much perseverance. Her experience and competition-savviness really show in how she worked around her injury. A podium-worthy performance as far as we're concerned. Another badass woman is Zara, winning the competition with those super scary, super high boogies of hers!

The feeling of exceeding ourselves by participating in a competition is insane! And to share these experiences together feels so powerful and the greatest fun in the world! Our first heat was together; how would you feel when your sister crashes her kite? You compete against each other, root for each other, and afterwards, celebrate together. We can't wait for the next one...



On The Fly

C KITE FESTIVAL AT C MAURITIUS //

Mauritius, the jewel of the Indian Ocean, is a mecca for kitesurfing. Le Morne, in southwestern Mauritius, is home to one of the best waves on the planet, One Eye. However, this small island is surrounded by kite spots in stunning locations. This June, professional kitesurfers will meet in a relaxed atmosphere for the inaugural C Kite Festival at C Mauritius.



Palmar, the home of C Mauritius, offers the ideal conditions for the #CKiteFestival, set on the windy east coast of Mauritius. And the timing of the festival is also right: the trade winds are strongest in the season from April to October. On top of that, event visitors can kite in the clear Indian Ocean, and can expect extremely pleasant water temperatures, a dream beach to relax on and plenty of sunshine.

Kitesurfing has developed into one of the biggest trending water sports, even though the sport itself has only existed for 30 years. It is probably the mix of speed and balance that gives kitesurfers a special adrenaline kick and entices more and more people to get on the board - competing in hotspots across the world. Since the development of kitesurfing has been rapid in recent times, you can now sweep over the water with kite foiling, using a soft foil kite or with wing foiling - a mixture of windsurfing and kiting.

The Kite Festival at C Mauritius celebrates these sporting moments in the summer of 2022 with the world's top kitesurfers. The French kitesurfing expert and TV presenter Antoine Auriol will be the host of the event. Professionals, locals and resort guests will be taking part in kitesurf, kitefoil and wingfoil sessions. Festival-goers can calmly try a kiteboard themselves or watch the impressive skills of the champions in live demonstrations. Guests include pro kiteboarder Victor Hays.

On The Fly

C KITE FESTIVAL AT C MAURITIUS //



The C Kite Festival is enhanced by a special evening programme including a concert on day two, cinema under the stars with cocktails and buffet on day three and a closing dinner on the last evening.

For guests at C Mauritius, the modern lifestyle and atmosphere is immediately noticeable. In the midst of the magnificent natural scenery, the cheerful hotel team always strive to ensure that travellers have fun and find time to feel free. The innovative, refreshing concept has just been awarded the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award 2022 as one of the best all-inclusive resorts in all of Africa - showing how the positive vibes are very much part of C Mauritius. Experience the perfect balance between casual relaxation and a lively atmosphere. Come play. Let go. Feel free!

The #CKiteFestival is from June 23rd to 27th, 2022. For more details, visit <https://www.c-resorts.com/en/>

On The Fly

GKA BIG AIR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & KITE EXPO //

Are you ready for kiteboarding's biggest event? The Global Kitesports Association and GKA Kite World Tour have an incredible line-up running in Tarifa in June with a triple header of headline acts – all part of the same huge event, from 20th June – 06th July!



GKA BIG AIR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

20th June – 6th July,
Valdevaqueros Beach

Pulling together the immense skills of twin-tip, strapless and hydrofoil riders to compete for respective World Titles at the same event is a world first in kiteboarding competition – a spectacle you do not want to miss and the GKA livestream means you won't have to!

HUGE KITE EXPO!

21 – 26th June,
Valdevaqueros Beach

Are you excited about the latest developments in kiteboarding, and would you like to pitch your questions directly to those who make the gear that we all love to ride? Then the Kite Expo is the place for you!

Plus, you can try all sorts of brand new equipment on demo, join pro rider / specialist clinics, meet your heroes and much more!

Click here to find out more, and don't forget to tune into the livestream of the GKA Big Air World Championships!

On The Fly

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC // ADEURI CORNIEL

It's been a while since the IKSURFMAG team has been to the Dominican Republic, but the spot still holds a place in all of our hearts! Local Adeuri Corniel tells us what he's been up to this summer, and shows that there's a lot more on offer in the DR than the Cabarete classics!

PHOTOS SUAMI CAVALLO



"At the beginning of the summer, I had the chance to come out of my comfort zone and explore in depth what our beautiful country, Dominican Republic, has to offer. We have been working on a breathtaking project together with Red Bull and Cabrinha around the whole Dominican Republic, and I cannot wait to show you and tell you more about it.

During the Red Bull scouting trip, while figuring out shoot locations and getting all the info we needed before shooting in the area, we visited amazing spots that I have never been to. I also experienced kitesurfing in a pink salt pond for the first time. The feeling was just amazing, and the location was too beautiful and unique to describe. It is for sure something I will never forget, and this photo right here truly says it all.

We found this secret pink salt pond in the northwest region of the Dominican Republic, on a secret island close to Monte Cristi. Besides kitesurfing on the pond, you can also kite around the island, and jump around the bridges with an amazing view. The other two photos were taken on Cayo Arena, a rare coral island off the coast of Puerto Plata in Punta Rucia. The water is crystal clear, and you can find good constant wind if you are lucky. Shooting in paradise feels like being born again. Filming with the drone and seeing everything from above offers a completely different point of view. I'm so lucky to call this place home and enjoy what mother nature has to offer."



IRELAND // NIALL POWER

Tramore is on the south east coast of Ireland, about two hours south of Dublin. This spot boasts three miles of sandy beach, which are perfect in SE winds. The back strand in Tramore is a tidal inlet behind the main beach that works only with a very high tide, but offers a fantastic flat water session in any wind direction. It's rideable when every other spot on the coast is blown out with huge surf.

There is a good community of 20 odd riders and friends that kite here. This session was on a Friday evening after work, and the riders included Hamish Patton, a Kiwi settled in Tramore, and Jim Ryan who is from Dublin but lives locally in Waterford.



WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS
PHOTOS ROBERT HAJDUK

TECH FOCUS

TEN YEARS OF MONK

Q&A with Mark Shinn

Shinn's first-ever board, the Monk, has been a part of the line-up from the start, with 2022 marking ten years of Monk. Designer Mark Shinn takes us through the decade-long journey and introduces us to the Monk X in this exclusive Q&A!





Wow, ten years of evolution in one twin tip is a significant anniversary! If I'm not mistaken, the Monk is the longest running model in the Shinn range. Is this your flagship board?

Ten years seems a long time; on the other hand, I remember clearly testing the first prototype of the Monk as though it were last week. In terms of name, the Monk is definitely the longest running board, and as its popularity continues, I suspect it will be in the range for a long time to come. I would not say it is a flagship because our range has many models all suited to different riding styles and ability levels, but it is arguably the most known model from Shinn.

There's got to be a story behind the gorilla graphic,

which makes Shinn Monk boards of nearly every year model instantly recognisable. What's the story there?!

Well, there is a story, but it is not nearly as salacious as you might think! Gazeuse (our long-standing partners in preparing the range graphics) are responsible for the name - and the names of all of our ranges - but, as they often like to remind me, the name is Monk, not Monkey, and our beloved face is of course as you state a Gorilla, not a monkey or a monk!

I don't really remember the inspiration for that first Monk and Gorilla, but I remember seeing the graphic project and instantly knowing that it was "the one"!! I think it captures the spirit and character of the model perfectly. To this day, the Monk is always the hardest

graphic model to select for the new season - if I had a euro for every time the question was asked, "nice - but is it a Monk?" - well, I would have a lot more euros than I do now!!!

Let's talk about the very first Shinn Monk. What was the concept, and which segment of the kitesurfing market were you aiming at?

I would not call the first Monk an accident, but, at the time, I was not looking to design and introduce a new board. I was working on freeride boards, and the first prototype Monk was an experiment for another board but about 20 seconds after riding it, I knew that this was something else - I realised that I was close to the magic formula of a board that simply became more fun to ride the worse the conditions became.

We all dream about riding in perfect conditions, but, in truth, few of us ride the dream very often. What the world is full of is choppy, gusty conditions, and after the first Monk tests, I knew that this could be the board that made everyday conditions at everyday spots a little bit special.

How much has the board changed over the years? Has it been minor changes, or have you ever done an extreme re-vamp?

There have been a good number of changes, but much of the time, it was more about technology and construction. The formulae for the Monk have stayed 100% true to its roots, and I think finding the magic twice might be tricky! During the last ten years, I made ALOT of prototype Monks, but none really stood out - some aspects were better and some were... not better, meaning they never made it onto the production model. That changed two years ago with the Monk Chromatic when we moved to the new multiple ridge and concave base design. I would not call it a re-vamp, but I did feel the performance upgrade was significant enough to make the changes in production. After testing with all riders, the general feeling was that the Monk Chromatic was more "Monk-like" than the original - let's call it a Monk with superpowers, haha!

Congratulations on the recent release of the Shinn Monk X, new for 2022. What are the key features of the new Monk X?

The Monk X continues the traditions of the long line of Monks, which is comfort in ALL conditions. It has plenty of grip, amazing carving and slashing turns, and a ride that feels like a magic carpet under your feet. Difficult conditions are its homeland!



" I KNEW THAT THIS COULD BE THE BOARD THAT MADE EVERYDAY CONDITIONS AT EVERYDAY SPOTS A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL. "



" THERE IS A HOST OF TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IN DOING THIS, BUT I THINK IT'S BETTER I KEEP THAT INFO FOR MYSELF! "

How does the shape of the base and deck affect the performance of the board?

A twin tip is a collection of features which work together in synergy to provide the feeling and performance of the board. Outline, rocker, flex, features shaping, fins and fin positions; there are many factors that go together and trying to take one of them and assign to it certain performance characteristics would be difficult. Even a feature seemingly so simple as flex can mean many different things and be controlled in many different ways by the designer - in the combination of the features.

What other technology has gone into this board that you are excited to share with our readers?

All Shinn boards are handmade in Poland. We spend a lot of time creating the prototypes and then even more time ensuring that every single board that leaves production is EXACTLY the same as the one we approved. There is a host of technology involved in doing this, but I think it's better I keep that info for myself!

The Shinn Monkette is a board dedicated to female riders. Are there differences in the design and construction of this board that benefit a lighter weight rider?

Some years ago, we received a lot of feedback that women also loved the smaller sizes of Monk, and the idea to create the Monkette was born. The Monkette shares many of the same features as the Monk but has been fine-tuned in flex to better suit less heavy and less aggressive riders. It's not softer in flex per se, rather displaying a different flex response and profile. The Monkette's are slightly narrower in length and feature dedicated inserts for boots for the ladies that like to ride strapped or booted.



Let's talk about the graphics for a moment! The Chromatic collection from last year has levelled up with the release of the new Prismatic collection. Can you tell us a bit more about the concept of the Prismatic range?

We looked at every board in the range individually for many years and designed graphics to match the board's personality. Last year, we decided to create a range with a common theme and attempted to find each board's own style within that theme. The Chromatic range was born and was instantly popular. For 2022, we wanted to develop that line of thinking - and develop is the correct word, not a fresh start, but a continuation - and the Prismatic range was born. I'd be lying if I didn't list Pink Floyd's legendary album cover as an inspiration, but overall, Prismatic light and Chromatic light are just different ways of splitting the same light waves - it seemed a perfect fit.

The Shinn Monk X and Monkette are all about performance, fun, and comfort. What sort of kiter or style of riding suits this board best?

Both the Monk and Monkette are FREERIDE boards. That means they prioritise comfort and having fun over extreme performance with a price to pay in handling and usability. A rider that feels comfortable will be having fun, and riders having fun will push themselves to new levels. What's special about the Monk, though, is that through its versatility, it lets you push in whichever direction you wish your riding to go.

Any last words on the new Shinn Monk X and Monkette?!

Of all the boards I have ever made, it is the Monk that consistently surprises riders and sends them onto the water with a smile on their face. If you didn't try one recently, then I'd encourage you to do so - it might not be what you expect!

"IT IS THE MONK THAT CONSISTENTLY SURPRISES RIDERS AND SENDS THEM ONTO THE WATER WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACE."



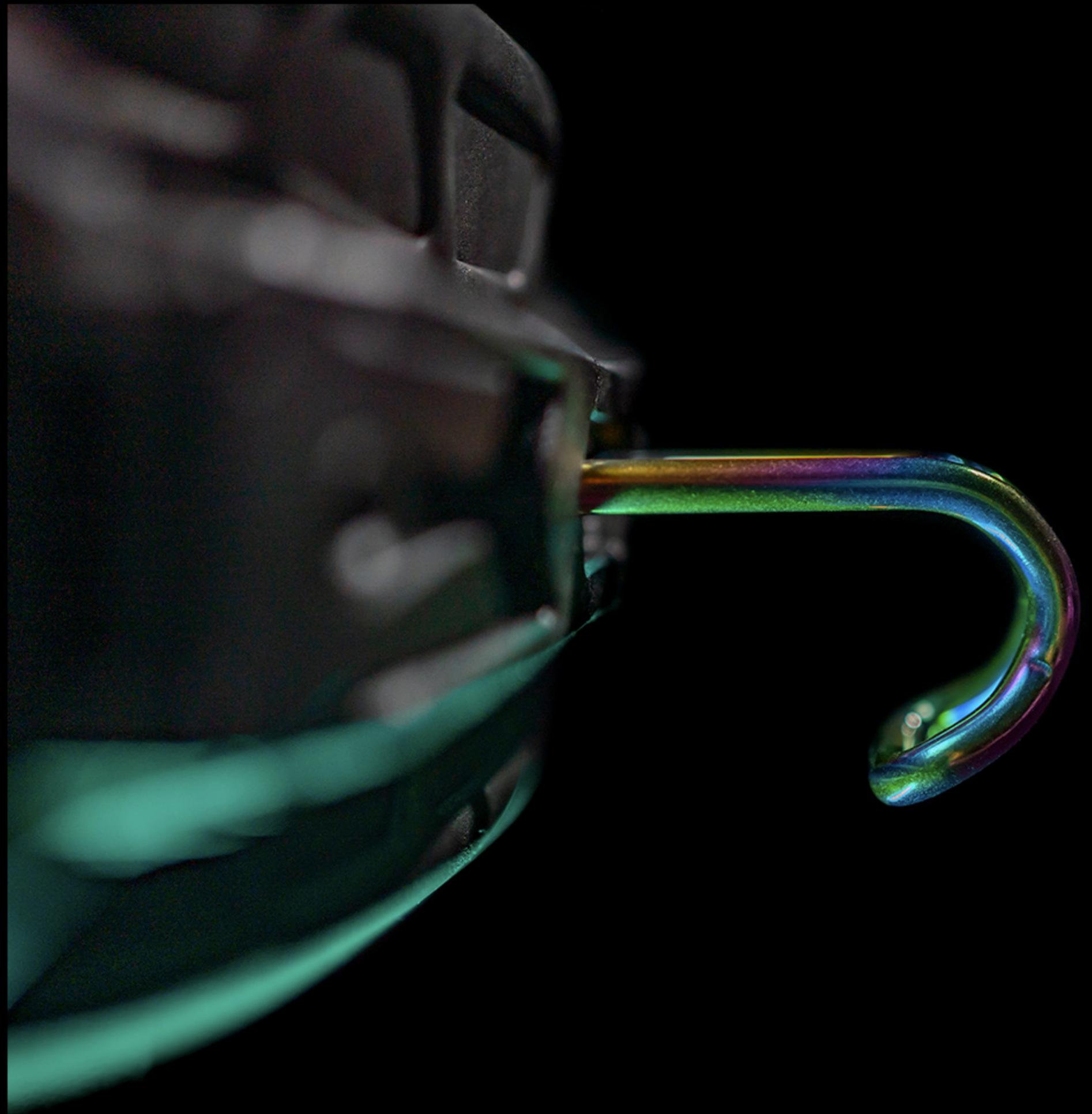
WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

TECH FOCUS

PROLIMIT ALPHA HARNESS AND ALPHA BAR

Q&A with Warren Jeffree

Harness technology is evolving rapidly, and the latest release from Prolimit features another industry-first development. We chat with Warren Jeffree, Prolimit Designer, to find out more about the all-new Alpha.



Whenever Prolimit announces a new product, we can be sure to expect something seriously innovative. We were stoked to hear about a brand new harness in the Prolimit range, dubbed as the most extreme full support harness ever. Tell us all about the new Alpha!

We've been working on new harness constructions and now have three different types in our range; the hardshell carbon composite construction, the hardshell pure construction and the softshell construction. The hardshell carbon composite and the hardshell pure constructions are the newest in our range.

For the Alpha, the carbon composite materials are used, which means that the torsion and horizontal flex are minimised. Carbon is well known for its light, strong and stiff characteristics. The hardshell connects directly with the straps transferring the load of the harness. The Alpha is our stiffest harness with the most support in a lower profile.

The Prolimit Alpha harness promises maximum stiffness and minimal flex. What type of kitesurfer would want these specific features out of their harness?

We wouldn't put it in one bracket and say this rider or this discipline. The harness is for a person who enjoys the hardshell harness and wants simplicity and a lower profile. Within the range, we have higher back profiles which give equal support. The Alpha has the lower profile and crams in the support. Freestyle riders tend to love this shape and height.

It's a premium harness at a premium price, ringing in at 500 euros, nearly triple the price of your most basic models! Tell us a bit about why a harness buyer might want to consider shelling out for a top-of-the-line harness like this one?

"THE ALPHA IS OUR STIFFEST HARNESS WITH THE MOST SUPPORT IN A LOWER PROFILE."



" THE OVERALL PROCESS GIVES THE BAR A SUPER HIGH ANTI-CORROSIVE LAYER. "

PROLIMIT

Any product in any industry is subject to the same question. Why choose a car with a carbon spoiler and more horsepower? It depends on the type of person who wants to purchase the premium item and appreciates the engineering and process it went through. When that is the case, the product sells itself, and we have achieved our goal of creating an exemplary product. And, unlike other brands, our harness is sold complete, with the new Alpha spreader bar included!

Speaking of the Alpha Bar, your new spreader bar features an industry first with the titanium electroplated bar. Can you tell us more about this process?

It has a similar process to the stainless bars, which is a coating. Like anything electroplated, it has to be done in a clinical environment and thoroughly cleaned. The overall process gives the bar a super high anti-corrosive layer. This process is well known for its durability in other industries as well, and the high-end mountain bike parts also feature this titanium electroplated coating. It is a proven technology that is now available in our industry.

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WE'VE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE WAY YOU ENGAGE WITH OUR CONTENT, IT'S INTUITIVE, AMAZING AND 100% FREE!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT

" WE WANTED EVERYONE TO SEE THE ALPHA AS A WELL-ROUNDED PRODUCT THAT ANYONE CAN PICK UP AND ENJOY. "

With the expertise of our factory and suppliers, we were able to accomplish our vision with the Alpha Bar.

Why a titanium electroplated bar over traditional stainless steel bar hooks?

The true benefit is the high corrosion resistance, especially in the harsh conditions that the average rider puts our products through. It also looks badass!

With neoprene and memory foam on the inside, would this super stiff harness still offer a comfortable ride?

We went through many samples to find the correct support in the foam. We have endless amounts of hours and experience in foams, using DFS (dual foam system) in our other harnesses with different densities. We have added the perfect amount of foam and memory foam in the Alpha to give it that comfortable feel. Support and comfort are a balance, but we are confident we achieved it in this harness.

The Alpha features a pre-shaped moulded hardshell. How does your design team determine the shape to ensure it will fit the majority of the market?

There is a fine line where you can design the craziest product and blow the socks off the industry; this might be a hit or a miss. High risk, high reward. That was not the plan for this product. We wanted everyone to see the Alpha as a well-rounded product that anyone can pick up and enjoy. When the hardbacks first hit the market, we had the Vapor, which was well received for its comfort and flex. We used this same ethos in the Alpha, and we now believe we have a complete range for every rider. Not everyone wants a stiff hardshell. The Alpha sits at the top of our range as the pinnacle of technology, hence the product name choice: "Alpha".

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS
RIDER ARTHUR GUILLEBERT
PHOTOS STUDIO 4X4

TECH FOCUS

ELEVEIGHT XS V3

Q&A with Peter Stiewe

Big news for the big air lovers out there - a new version of the Eleveight XS V3 is ready to hit the market!! We're going behind the design with creator Peter Stiewe to learn more about this exciting new release!



Peter, thanks for joining us for this Tech Focus interview! So, what's new with the Eleveight XS V3?

When we developed the XS, our aim was to create a very playful kite that excels in big air sessions and powered freeride sessions. In Version 3, the main kite DNA remains the same, but we made a couple of noticeable changes to fine-tune the performance and handling.

The XS features a pulley-less bridle, and we also modified the wing tip segmentation. The arc is a bit flatter to increase efficiency and extend the hangtime. We also focused on the weight reduction for the V3. We use a 10% lighter bladder material to decrease the weight of all sizes.

Can you go into more detail about each of the changes? How have these changes affected the handling of the kite?

The pulley-less bridle increased the overall performance and handling. The bar feedback is more direct, which is needed in a kite made for radical loops and tones of hangtime. It also lets the kite drive further forward in its position to catch the rider better after mega or double loops.

The revised wing tip shape has similar outcomes and underlines the fast and precise turning characteristics of the XS.

Overall, weight reduction is a big topic in our industry. But the downside can be compromising the durability of the products. For the XS, durability is a key performance parameter, so we were very careful when changing materials. The new bladder material has proven itself for over two years in our OS kites, and we were more than happy with the durability. Overall, the new XS is 10% lighter across all sizes.



"THE BAR FEEDBACK IS MORE DIRECT, WHICH IS NEEDED IN A KITE MADE FOR RADICAL LOOPS AND TONES OF HANGTIME."



" THE BIG AIR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN GROWING FAST, AND THE GUYS ARE PROGRESSING AND PUSHING THE LIMITS IN A COMPLETELY NEW DIRECTION. "

Are there any new materials or construction methods used in the V3?

For Version 3, we used all our prime materials. The XS comes with durable X4 ripstop weave, and all inflatable parts are made of our XT high tenacity cloth. The construction features many little details to ensure high performance and durability. For example, we used a triple-reinforced closing seam along the leading edge, making it practically indestructible. We also paid special attention to the load transition between the inflatable frame structure and the ripstop material to improve stability and durability.

Tell us more about the development journey.

What areas were you looking to improve on from the V2 to V3?

The development of the XS V3 was driven by a precise analysis of how we can improve the overall performance and create a product evolution which fits the demands of the big air rider. The big air community has been growing fast, and the guys are progressing and pushing the limits in a completely new direction.

For the XS V3, I focused on three key performance parameters – form stability in all conditions, direct turning feedback in all situations and durability to

to withstand the extreme forces.

Was there any trial and error in the development phases, or was it smooth sailing all the way?

Luckily, I have over 20 years of history in developing performance kites. That helps a lot to avoid some trial-and-error mistakes which we all had in the early years of kiteboarding.

My focus in each development process of existing products is incremental changes. I receive a lot of feedback and run it through my own filter. I like to observe guys like Arthur Guillebert to understand the forces of the material and the demands of the rider.



" THE EXPLOSIVE LIFT IS MET WITH BOMBPROOF CONSTRUCTION AND STABILITY FOR ADRENALINE JUNKIES WANTING TO HIT FULL SEND. "

The XS is also my passion project which makes the process very rewarding and enjoyable.

For those free riders with big air aspirations, is this kite the answer?

Absolutely YES! – The explosive lift is met with bombproof construction and stability for adrenaline junkies wanting to hit full send.

What other last words can you share about the new XS V3?!

I like to say: The XS is the modern interpretation of a high-performance old school kite, fine-tuned to match the needs of the new extreme big air style.

INSIGHT

CAMILLA RINGVOLD

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTOS HÅKON MÆLAND

Camilla Ringvold is one of the most impressive women we've ever met with an unbelievable list of kiting accomplishments! Find out more about this snowkite champion, arctic explorer, mother, and more in this exclusive Insight feature!




 A wide-angle photograph of a snowkiter in a vast, snow-covered mountain landscape. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. A large blue kite with the text 'KITEKURS.NO EXPEDITIONS' is suspended in the air. A small figure of a person is visible on the snow in the distance.

KITEKURS.NO
EXPEDITIONS

" I STARTED COMPETING IN SKIING AND SAILING RELATIVELY YOUNG, WHICH SHAPED THE PERSON I AM TODAY. "

Camilla, it's great to feature you in this issue! You wrote a Travel Guide for us about Hardangervidda, Norway, but that barely scratches the surface of the incredible adventures you've had! Five-time Norwegian champion, 2014 winner of Red Bull Battle of the Sund, 2014 winner of Red Bull Ragnarok, leading expeditions across Greenland and even crossing the Atlantic by kite... I don't even know where to start, so let's take it from the beginning!

Born and raised in Norway, snow sports and adventure must have been everyday activities in

your household. What were your parents like? How did you spend your weekends?

Most Norwegians live an active lifestyle, and luckily - we were no different! Our weekends were spent skiing and our summers on the water. I started competing in skiing and sailing relatively young, which shaped the person I am today.

How and when did you first get into kiteboarding and, more specifically, snowkiting?

My sister and I initially started with windsurfing,

but lugging around so much equipment on a tiny Ford Fiesta that we inherited from our grandparents was not ideal. On the other hand, seeing kiteboarders throw their equipment in the backseat looked so convenient! So that winter, I signed up for a snowkite course, and voila - here I am.

I miss the days when we just had one kite! I remember I had an 11.8m Wipika Airblast 11.8 - and it nearly killed me at Pozo Beach on Canary Island! I eventually switched to a Cabrinha C02, and now, 23 years later, I'm still riding Cabrinha kites.

You often share photos from Tarifa. How many months a year do you spend there? What is your favourite kite spot in the Tarifa area?

I owned a condo on the beach in Tarifa a few years ago, but I still travel to Tarifa regularly even though I'm based in Norway. Depending on what time of the year you visit, Tarifa has its unique charm. As long as you never expect it to be "like last time", you'll always have a good time!

I love Balneario sessions, especially when the pros show up. Their riding level is insane and motivational; I'm no longer close to their riding level! So these days, I enjoy a wave session at Canos de Mecca or just a sunset downwinder from Valdevaqueros to Campo de Futbol, slashing small beach breaks along the way and maybe stopping by Aqua for a drink or two!

What inspired you to start kiteboarding competitively? Which disciplines did you compete in?

It started more for the social scene, to begin with, everybody got involved, partied and had fun! I have competed in most disciplines, even Formula kite. Everyone was obsessed with their fins, and it got too much like the competitive sailing environment I experienced as a teen. The fun was gone because fewer people took part, and it got more serious. With snowkiting, most competitions are still based on a social experience – especially the long-distance ones. It's more about the journey than the result, which I like – even though I still try my best to win!

" IT'S MORE ABOUT THE JOURNEY THAN THE RESULT, WHICH I LIKE EVEN THOUGH I STILL TRY MY BEST TO WIN! "





" RED BULL RAGNAROK IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM WAS SUPER FUN, VERY SOCIAL AND AN AMAZING WAY TO EXPERIENCE HARDANGERVIDDA. "

You were the winner of the 2014 Red Bull Ragnarok, and you've claimed your spot on the podium many times. I can imagine how challenging it must be, especially if the wind is fickle or visibility isn't on your side. What do you enjoy most about racing in those conditions?

I love tricky conditions; that's what I am best at. Despite this, I have never been the fastest racer in perfect conditions, and that's also not the kind of racing I enjoy. Very light wind or super stormy whiteouts is where experience and solid kite handling comes into play. Being able to handle all-mountain elements, make smart decisions in the terrain, both light and stormy winds, and kite on the edge of what's comfortable is thrilling. Red Bull Ragnarok in its original form was super fun, very social and an amazing way to experience Hardangervidda.

What is your favourite Red Bull Ragnarok story to share?

I do remember the very first edition of the race. It was quite a big deal for a place like Haugastøl to have pro kiteboarders visiting like Susi Mai, Ruben Lenten, and Aaron Hadlow. Out of 110 starters, only four finished. Most of the participants never even made it by the first rounding mark, kites flew everywhere, and several pros recognised the skill level of the local Norwegian riders conquering these conditions.

The best stories from the races and parties, primarily parties, are untold... but I'll be happy to share them with you over a beer in Tarifa one day!



" I HAVE NEVER FELT SO ALONE AND FREE AND STILL SO SAFE BECAUSE WE HAD SUCH A GOOD CREW WITH EXCELLENT SKILLS. "

On November 20th 2013, Filippo van Hellenberg Hubar, Max Blom, Eric Pequeno, Dennis Gijsbers, Ike Frans and yourself set off from the Canary Islands and arrived at Turks and Caicos, in the Caribbean, on December 17th - 7800km in the first-ever NON-STOP kiteboarding crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Please tell us all about it!

What an adventure we had! One evening, I googled if anyone had kited across the Atlantic - and that's how it all began. My father had recently sailed across, and I was eager to attempt a similar journey, but with kites. I came across a WordPress blog by Filippo van

Hellenberg Hubar, and he had the same dream. I sent him a message, and then the ball started to roll quite fast. He is genuinely a go-getter with an incredible entrepreneurial mind. We began to gather a team; we looked for sponsors, a boat, a skipper and a crew. The kite crew changed many times before our departure - only weeks before leaving. It was a big project made by dreams and dreamers. And our working title for the project, Enable Passion, was indeed the core of it all.

We had several training sessions, and the planning took a full year. We had to find a way to launch kites from the boat travelling at speed, change riders in the

middle of the night, find the right equipment, food, boat crew, make a safety plan, etc. Today, I think we would have done a lot differently, but wow - what a learning experience it all was.

When I look back at it, my favourite part of the whole trip was my night sessions. Big swells, the sea only lit up by the moon and stars, flying fish hitting you in the side, not knowing what hit you, and a dazzling bright green light after my tail fin from all the bioluminescence in the water. I have never felt so alone and free and still so safe because we had such a good crew with excellent skills, each with their speciality.

When we arrived in Turks and Caicos, we were welcomed like superstars. That was a fun party! I urge everyone to Google their dreams; who knows what might come from them. You might meet a Filippo out there.

Congratulations on becoming a mom. Louie is adorable! Juggling motherhood and hobbies is no easy task; I totally understand! However, it's essential to keep doing what you love. What's your secret?

Thanks! Wow, what a ride it is with these little ones. I love him to pieces. A long time ago, I had a chat with my childhood friend, kitesurfer Tuva Jansen, after she returned from Maui – I remember she told me that when she had her first kid, Aya, that travelling with her was just another bag to bring along. That stuck with me for a while, and I think as kitesurfers, we're used to handling all sorts of logistics and carrying loads of stuff – so we're pretty well prepared for a kite life with kids. But the secret? I have an amazing fiancé; we were supposed to get married in Tarifa in September 2020, but the pandemic hit – so it's still postponed. He loves to kite and travel as much as I do, maybe even more, and we give each other space to do the things we love. I don't do much less kiting, wingfoiling or skiing now than pre-kid, we just don't always do it together, but again, it's nice to have two super guys waiting for you at the beach. And yeah, grandparents – we love those too – luckily, at home, both our parents live within one hour from us, and as long as Louie is fortunate to have them around, he can enjoy their company with waffles and hugs as much as they want as well.

" HE LOVES TO KITE AND TRAVEL AS MUCH AS I DO, MAYBE EVEN MORE, AND WE GIVE EACH OTHER SPACE TO DO THE THINGS WE LOVE. "



PHOTO XANDER NOE



"IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL AND A GREAT WAY TO START AN ARCTIC KITING TRIP."

We all want to hear about your Greenland expedition; it sounds insane! Crossing miles of white horizons as far as the eye can see. Can you share with us what it's like snowkiting between Kangerlussuaq and Qaanaaq?

Crossing Greenland, whichever route one chooses, is a massive expedition. Both for the body and mind. Our most popular route goes from Kangerlussuaq to the most northern settlement in the world, Qaanaaq.

The planning for Greenland starts long before we even step on the ice. To be allowed to step onto the icecap, a lot of paperwork must be filed with the government. These include permit applications, SAR insurance, bank guarantees, radio licenses, and weapon licenses. If you decide to use a helicopter to reach the ice, more preparation is required.

After this, the fun stuff starts – route planning, safety plans, planning food for 30 days, medical kit and subscriptions, winter camping equipment, etc. Of course, the kites we use are just a fraction of our packing list, but again – they are our vehicle and are very important to have a smooth trip from south to north across the icecap.

After a day or two of packing and prepping, we head up by 4x4 to the start of the Russell Glacier at around 660m above sea level. Crampons and willpower will help us get up through an ice maze for the next 3-5 days. I tend to think we're walking around in a marshmallow field – it is so beautiful and a great way to start an arctic kiting trip. The body gets started while temperatures are still nice, around freezing, and day by day, the team's winter camping routines get dialled. All just in time for when we get out of the maze around 1200m above sea level.

" THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF A MOUNTAIN IN THE DISTANCE IS LIKE A MAGNET PULLING YOU TOWARDS A FREE BEER! "



From there on, winds are usually relatively light, and we loop our way up to a travelling height around 2000m above sea level. There are no more mountains in sight; the days are getting longer, and the nights lighter and lighter. This is when the real fun starts, and the vast beauty of Greenland truly comes to show. Arctic halo's, white horizons for days and midnight sun, all while travelling with great friends, old or new, snowkiting on top of the world. During the following weeks, one will experience storms, perfect conditions, sastrugi, broken equipment, laughter, fatigue and an incredible feeling of accomplishment and mastering the many aspects of winter camping and snowkiting.

The descent of the icecap is closing in after a few weeks. The first glimpse of a mountain in the distance is like a magnet pulling you towards a free beer! It's a bit more dangerous up north. We are entering the polar bear habitat the more we descend to the sea ice, and of course, bodies are tired, and equipment is tired or fixed along the way. During this part of the journey, I recommend taking it slow, soaking in the beauty of the ice fjords and mountains, and you might even hear a bird once in a while. That might sound weird for most, but when you haven't heard sounds of nature other than ice and snow for weeks, the sound of a bird is like a symphony. While watching out for

crevasses and getting the team in one piece down to the sea ice, one can only think about how lucky we can be to experience this part of the world. You might think that once we're down to the sea ice, the trip is over – but no, while a spectacular journey with kites comes to an end, each kiter is picked up by a local Inuit hunter and his Greenland dog sled, and a two-day sled ride starts. On our way from the Bowdoin Fjord to Qaanaaq, we might stop to hunt seals, fish or whatever the hunters need to do to gather food for their families back home in Qaanaaq. It's like being in the middle of a National Geographic episode.



A beer and shower in Qaanaaq after this is quite amazing as well. One learns to appreciate the contrast between cold and the simple life and comfort and a hot shower. So even though I've tried to explain, I can say you have to experience it for yourself!

What's your kite gear of choice for running these expeditions, and why?

In super light winds going downwind for thousands of kilometres with 80-100kg in the pulk behind us, as we do on Greenland, there are not many kites that beat the Ozone Chrono EXP 15m with 50m lines when it comes to performance and safety. But, if I'm guiding a not so experienced client, he might be using a Chrono, and I am light, so I might fly a tube Ozone Edge with extensions, making me more manoeuvrable when I need help. You might think an Edge is an upwind machine, but the downward pull it has in the loop and its stability are fantastic. I've flown a Cabrinha up there as well; same great kite. In addition – a tube is an excellent shield from the wind during breaks, and – as a girl, it's a lot nicer to sit down and pee behind a tube kite than nothing at all in -25C (yes, we live in tents, so no toilets around) so it has its practical non-kite specs as well. I also think tubes are more fun and playful to manoeuvre. And I love to kite, using the kite – not just being pulled by a kite.

Can you share one of the most thrilling stories from your Greenland adventures?

I wish I could tell you a super exciting polar bear story right now, but I have yet to encounter one up there – only tracks so far. But my thrilling story was probably more compelling for one of my clients. For the rest of us, it was a spectacular sight.

" TUBES ARE MORE FUN AND PLAYFUL TO MANOEUVRE. AND I LOVE TO KITE, USING THE KITE, NOT JUST BEING PULLED BY A KITE. "



“ PUTTING DOWN A BIG KITE ISN'T ALWAYS VERY CONVENIENT IF YOU NEED TO USE THE 'TOILET' ”



When we kite on the icecap, we are often overpowered by choice – we are going downwind, pulling heavy pulks, so putting down a big kite isn't always very convenient if you need to use the 'toilet', in the case of one of my clients. So preparing to take a little pee break, kite in the air over his head and pants down– a little gust came in, or a bit out of focus maybe, anyways, there he flew, straight up and into a backroll with the pulks hanging behind him – with one hand on the bar, and one hand on you know what. He landed, though very smoothly, on his feet. I've never seen a trick like that again. But all of us on the trip can tell you that the saying "piss into the wind, wind piss back" has been confirmed true.

A for style, though, and laughter - essential on any journey! I can't wait to get back there for more icecap adventures!

Best of luck on your journey, Camilla! I'm so glad we were able to catch up before you left on your next Greenland expedition. We'll keep an eye on your Instagram page and follow your adventure!



WORDS LUKAS HANSON

Imagine travelling the world at 16-years-old, visiting top kite spots, experiencing new cultures, and enjoying exciting new food. Well, that's what this story is all about! Lukas Hanson, a student of the World Class Kiteboard Academy, documented his eight-month journey in this around-the-world article!

AROUND THE WORLD WITH

RIDER JOPPE VAN DE POLL PHOTO PANOS PSARAS



“ I WENT TO BED WITH THESE THOUGHTS FLYING THROUGH MY HEAD, BARELY ABLE TO SLEEP, BUT I WOKE UP THAT NEXT MORNING WITH MORE ENERGY THAN EVER! ”

After learning how to kiteboard only a few months before, late last year, I found myself in my room packing my kite bag for Greece, a place known for crystal clear water and heavenly pastries. At only 16, a lot was going through my head. "Who am I going to meet?", "How am I going to feel?" and "What about my friends at home?!" I thought about how difficult my new school

would be and how different I might be from my classmates from around the world. I went to bed with these thoughts flying through my head, barely able to sleep, but I woke up that next morning with more energy than ever!

After we loaded my bags in the car, we departed to the airport so I could catch my 7 am flight to Europe. I said goodbye to my parents at the airport, realising I wouldn't be seeing them for another four months. I checked in my oversized kite bag, boarded the plane, and settled into seat 14A for the 19-hour journey from California to Greece. The memory of this plane ride is faint,

except for one thing, the baby crying on the seat directly behind me! I was already missing home but knew there was no turning back now. Little did I know, these negative thoughts would quickly disappear after meeting the World Class Kiteboard Academy.

Upon arrival at the airport in Athens, Greece, I received a text from my head coach, saying the team would be waiting by the exit. As soon as I walked out with bags in hand, I saw my coach waving at me and introduced myself as Lukas Hanson. We spent the next few hours waiting for the rest of the crew to arrive. We explored on foot near the airport between scheduled flight arrivals, admiring Athens's unique architecture and design. Just outside the airport,

RIDER DYLAN AYER
PHOTO JUSTO MORANDO



“ THE CRISP, CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER AND THE WARM SUN SHINING DOWN ON YOUR HEAD MADE THE KITE SESSIONS THAT MUCH MORE INCREDIBLE. ”

I saw the most beautiful bakery I had ever seen and had my first introduction to Greek pastry!

Once the group was complete and we had all officially met, we continued to Raches and Drepano, where our first kite spots would be. At this point in my kiteboarding journey, I was still learning how to jump and pull downloops in my turns. However, it didn't matter how good you were; the crisp, crystal clear water and the warm sun shining down on your head made the kite sessions that much more incredible. Raches had a beautiful point poking out into the Aegean Sea, and Drepano featured a long white beach near the Gulf of Patras. Both locations offered breathtaking flat water, suitable for all disciplines of kiteboarding. The wind was perfect nearly every day and consistent as could be.

Over the next eight weeks in Greece, I met some of the most amazing people who were completely different from me. Two of these people were from Argentina - my mentor and one of my peers. They introduced me to Mate, a cultural caffeinated drink popular in their home country. Mate is made with specially dried leaves from the *paraguariensis* plant, a cup and straw, and a thermos of hot water. At first, I was laughed at for cringing the first time I tried it, but I learned to love it throughout the year. The food we were introduced to made me not miss my fast food restaurants back in California so much. Greek food is definitely some of the best I've ever had! As of today, I am now drinking my own Mate back in California and strive to make meals like the ones I enjoyed in Greece almost eight months ago.

“ TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONDITIONS, I WAS ABLE TO ADVANCE MY KITING IN A DIFFERENT DISCIPLINE AND LEARNED NUMEROUS FREESTYLE TRICKS. ”

Our next destination was Brazil, where the sun rises at 5:45 am and goes down at 6 pm. Almost immediately after getting off the plane, I felt the intense heat coming from the sun. Here, we had to wear at least SPF50. I am still suffering from a terrible tan line after using a block of sunscreen on my back. Here, I was taught a new discipline in kiteboarding called freestyle. I had never heard of it before, but let me tell you, at the time, it was the most terrifying thing I had ever done.

In Brazil, we explored different world-class flat water kite spots, including Taiba and Cumbuco, and another beautiful beach with a wave spot called Flecheiras. In Taiba, we kited in the most famous freestyle lagoon, enjoying late sunset sessions and coconuts from the beach bar. Between the blazing hot sun and the warm lagoon, kiting here was almost too warm for boardshorts. Taking advantage of the conditions, I was able to advance my kiting in a different discipline and learned numerous freestyle tricks.

During the rare no wind days, we made trips into the towns of Taiba and Cumbuco, getting to play soccer with the local kids on their town soccer pitch and enjoy bowls of fresh acai with chilled tropical fruit on top. The acai and kiting here will never be forgotten! With Portuguese being the most used language in Brazil, I was able to take this in and advance my Spanish to a new tier and was even able to communicate with some of the locals.

RIDER GRANT MAYO PHOTO RICHARD HALLMAN



9 MILES PROJECT
PHOTO JUSTO MORANDO



“ THE CONDITIONS IN CAPE TOWN ALLOWED ME TO PROGRESS RAPIDLY IN BIG AIR, AND I STARTED TO THROW MY FIRST KITELOOPS. ”

After winter break and going home to visit my family and friends, the mother city came along; Cape Town, South Africa. This location had incredible waves, kickers for big air and powerful wind up to 40 knots. As we were on the final approach, we flew over tiny homes packed against each other, which I later found out were called townships. After meeting my team at the airport, we got food and began our next adventure.

The conditions in Cape Town allowed me to progress rapidly in big air, and I started to throw my first kitemans. I saw many big air pros, which influenced my riding style and gave me new ideas to try. By the end of this quarter, I was sending backroll kitemans above 15 metres and pushing my big air abilities to new heights.

In South Africa, we went on multiple renowned hikes, including the Table Mountain climb and many other peaks along the same mountain range. Another memorable scene was kayaking above kelp forests and making friends with the penguins waddling around on the beach. We also made an appearance at the 9 Miles Project, an organisation where children from townships are brought in to experience surfing and given the opportunity to learn how to read, draw and write. At 9 Miles, we brought food and cooked for the kids. After a solid meal, the kids and the whole WCKA crew went for a beautiful surfing session. Being in this location opened my eyes to how many of the world's population lives and how fortunate we are to be where we are. This trip will always be remembered.

RIDER LAUTARO JANSEN
PHOTO FRITZ HOFFMEISTER



RIDER GRANT MAYO
PHOTOS JUSTO MORANDO

“ KITEBOARDING HAS LED ME TO FIND AMAZING PEOPLE AND PLACES AND HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. ”

Finally, our last quarter arrived, and we were off to Sardinia, Italy. After my two-week break in Turkey, it was time to study hard for finals and prepare myself for another beautiful spot on an island southwest of Italy. The spot had choppy water on one side of the peninsula but a shockingly smooth, flat water stretch on the other. This new location was called Punta Trettu.

Coming from cold, snowy weather in Turkey to the heat of Sardinia was a bit of a shock. However, after a few weeks, the heat quickly changed to clouds, rain, and thunderstorms! We were kiting in the rain and 35 knots when we realised that the rain was getting progressively harder and became hail. The hailstones were coming down so hard that we all had to scramble under our kites for protection. After 10 minutes of hiding under the kites, it was bluebird skies once again, and we continued with our epic big air session. This remains one of my most memorable kiteboarding moments!

During no wind days in Sardinia, we explored one of the more major cities, Cagliari. We enjoyed fire oven pizza cooked directly in front of us, layered with a meat of choice, mine being local prosciutto. The baked goods here are some of the best I've ever consumed, and this location definitely deserves a revisit in the coming future.

Kiteboarding has led me to find amazing people and places and has changed my life. Over the past eight months, I have travelled to multiple renowned kite spots scattered all around the world. With the WCKA community, I have witnessed different cultures and environments while advancing my abilities in a sport of a great passion, kiteboarding.

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?!

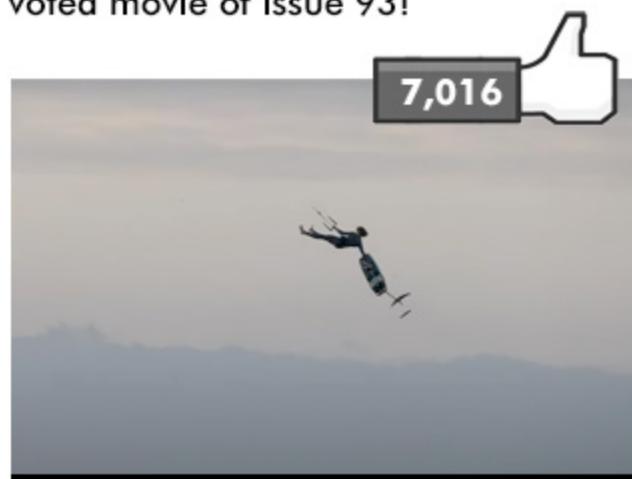
These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes over the last 2 months! Check out the full list [HERE](#), and if you see a video you like on the site, give it the thumbs up. It might just help to push it onto this page!

Put the popcorn on, it's Movie Night!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 HYDROFOILING, CHANGING THE GAME

You probably thought Jamie Overbeek was all about big air, but wait until you see what he can do when he combines big air with a hydrofoil! Grab a seat and watch Jamie sending it big in our #1 most voted movie of Issue 93!



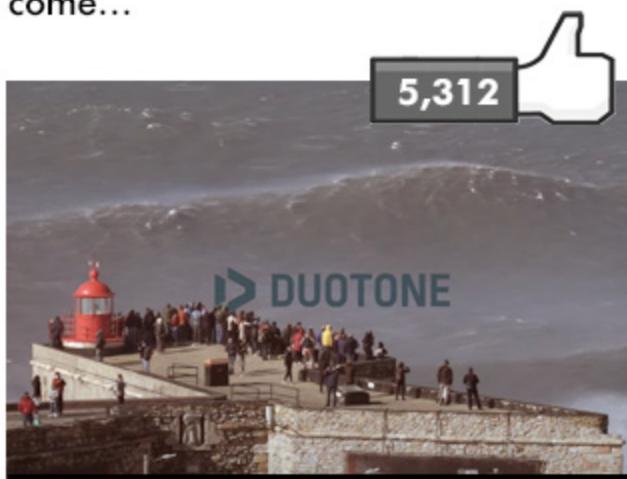
7,016



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#2 "STORMING" WITH JAMES CAREW EPISODE 2

When James Carew dropped episode 2, "STORMING", we just knew it would make our Movie Night list! Watch James as he scores a session at Nazare, scoping the scene and feeling what's to come...



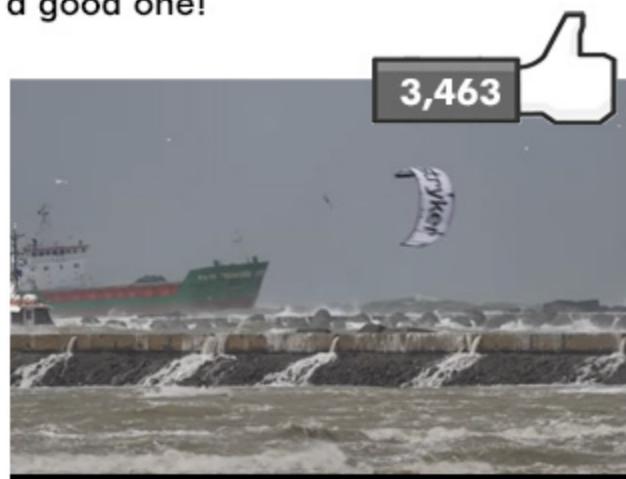
5,312



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#3 ON THE LOOSE S3E4 HOME TURF

Whoop! Landing at #3, we've got 'On the Loose' episode 4! Watch Aaron Hadlow and Ruben Lenten visit Ruben's hometown of Noordwijk in the Netherlands and embark on several exciting missions. This one's a good one!



3,463



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#4 KITE BOAT STORM CHALLENGE!!! COURT IN THE ACT VLOG

Sam Light and Tom Court's second attempt to kite-boat around the Isle of Wight makes it to #4 on Movie Night. Did they succeed? Only one way to find out! Watch the vlog to see how it went...



3,160



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RIDER ELIAS OAUHMID
PHOTO RAMIRO GALLART

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