

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 22

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 94 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! Summer sessions are on the menu in this issue! Our Brand Manager Anastasia Pankina finds blue skies in Mauritius while the FLYSURFER crew finds cloudy days in the UK. We catch up with breakthrough Big Air rider, Zara Hoogenraad, and take a look at the Future of Foiling with Jamie Overbeek.

Sail Sardinia with Jan Burgdörfer and dive into the Dominican Republic with Lilo Fourré. Keep on reading as Lewis Crathern talks big air and big change, Christian and Karine bring you two new techniques, and we check out some of the latest equipment in our Tech Focus and Tests! Take a look inside IKSURFMAG Issue 94!

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.

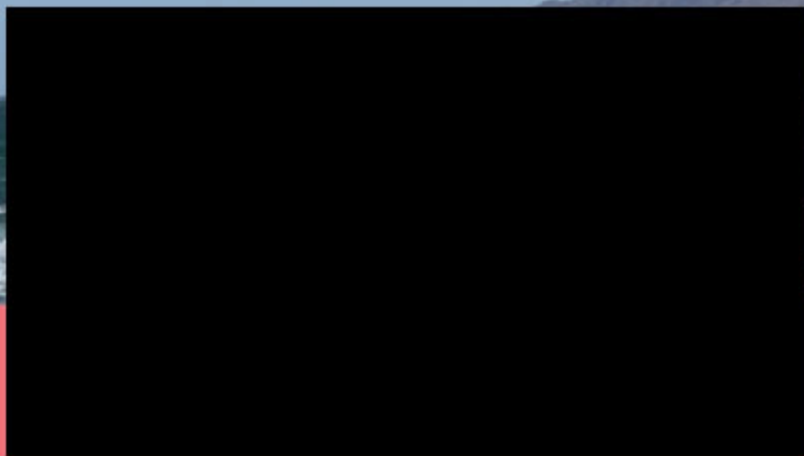


- KINGDOM OF WIND -

SARDINIA FROM THE SEA / MAURITIUS / DOMINICAN DREAMING
FUTURE OF FOILING / INTERVIEWS / TECHNIQUE & MORE INSIDE!

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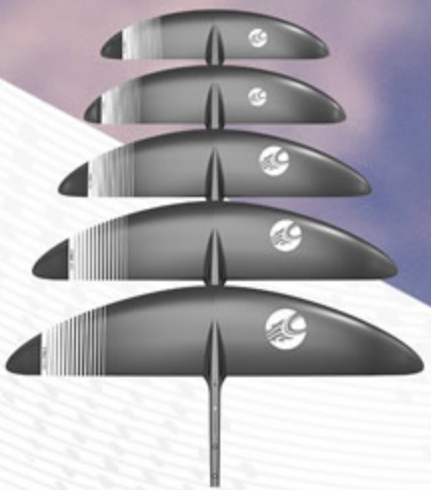
RIDE WITH A LEGEND
RIDE WITH A LEGEND



RIDE WITH A LEGEND
RIDE WITH A LEGEND



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COMPETITION



EDITORIAL



MAURITIUS:
THE OTHER SIDE



INSIGHT:
ZARA HOOGENRAAD



UK STOKE: EXPLORING
THE KINGDOM OF WIND



TECH FOCUS



DOMINICAN DREAMING



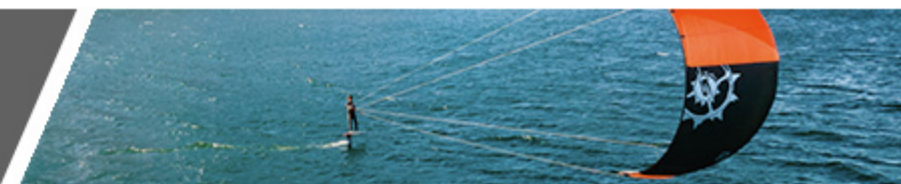
TECHNIQUE



THE INTERVIEW:
LEWIS CRATHERN



TRIED & TESTED



LIGHTROOM



ON THE FLY



SARDINIA FROM THE SEA



THE FUTURE OF FOILING



MOVIE NIGHT



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No trees were harmed while we made this magazine although the staff may have been subject to beatings in order to get the job done. The views in this magazine are just that, views, & should be taken with a pinch of salt. Kitesurfing is a dangerous sport & none of the activities depicted within this magazine should be participated in without full instruction in person by a qualified instructor.

LUCA CERUTI MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON HIS NEW NORTH KITEBOARDING GEAR
AT THE GKA BIG AIR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS





WIN

A MYSTIC MAJESTIC WAIST HARNESS! SUBSCRIBE TO WIN, CLICK [HERE](#) IT'S FREE

This issue, you've got a chance to win one of the best rated and most loved harnesses in the industry! We've teamed up with the crew at Mystic to offer the latest Mystic Majestic Waist Harness to one of our readers, in the size of their choice! Want to know more about this coveted competition prize? Read on...

The Majestic harness has the same Bionic Core Frame as the Majestic X, but with a Roving glass fiber plate which provides bigger freedom of movement.

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Isn't it beautiful? You could be rocking this harness on your next session!

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PHOTO: ROU CHATER

ISSUE 94 BACK IN ACTION!

If there's one thing that's become clear over the last few months, it's that the kite industry and everything to do with it is going full steam ahead! Many of us have adapted our social habits over the last couple of years; others have simply stopped caring. Whatever the case, it's evident that the energy is back!

Recent events like the GKA Expo, Big Air World Championships, and Full Power Tarifa have been excellent entertainment for those watching from afar and, from what I heard, parties to remember (or not, if you know what I mean) for those on the spot.

Those that have opted to avoid travelling to these big industry events in favour of staying close to home, I certainly can't blame you, considering all the

obstacles. If flight prices and fuel costs weren't enough, the potential of losing your board bag - for good - makes one question if the spend is worth the send!

With the latest announcement from Red Bull about the upcoming King of the Air in Cape Town, one can only hope that things settle down! Planning is well underway for an epic 10th edition, and this one promises to be one for the ages. Only 4 riders out of the 18 who will complete are known, and speculation about the lineup is rampant. Will we see some fresh faces this year? With a new avenue to enter the event for first-time riders, that's guaranteed! [Read more on that here.](#)

Since I've exiled myself in South Africa to focus on renovating our Blouberg guest house in time for the summer season, watching the kiting action from afar

has my FOMO on fire! My fingers are crossed as much as everyone else's that flight prices drop so the kites of the Northern Hemisphere can escape the cold, winter weather and trade up for wine farms and sunny southeaster sessions!

Having not travelled for nearly two years now, the importance of the local kite community has played a vital role in my ability to go for a session, have fun, and stay safe. No matter how marginal the wind conditions are, those in my local community love kiteboarding so much that you can be guaranteed to show up at the beach on your own and find someone to share a session with.

Luckily for the rest of the IKSURFMAG and Tonic Mag crew, they've been enjoying the summer sea breezes up in our brand headquarters, the UK.

What better way to make the most of the warm weather than to bring the local crew together for a demo event? Publisher Rou Chater and Web Editor Jen Tyler put their heads together to plan a weekend to bring the kite and wing fans together to try out some of the newest gear to arrive on the market.

Of course, as all community events go, it takes a village to make a vibe! The local distributors for Duotone, Airush, AK Durable Supply Co, Shinn, Ozone, FLYSURFER, North, Mystic, ION, Fanatic, RRD, Armstrong, Unifoil, Lieuwe, Naish and more put the elbow grease into getting all their gear set up and available for demo. They couldn't ask for a better demo area than the Littlehampton beachfront, with facilities organised by James Hoare, Director of The Beach.

The sea in front of The Beach was chockablock with wind lovers who had come from near and far. The wind machine rewarded their efforts, delivering 20 knots of wind from morning until night! They even had the chance to participate in Duotone's Save our Playground beach clean-up before their session and ice-cold beers at The Beach after! [Click here to read more about the Kite & Wing Demo Weekender](#) and keep an eye out for the next one!

What a way to spend a weekend, and an apt reminder of how much fun can be had by getting involved with your local kite community. Whether it's staying in touch on Facebook or WhatsApp groups or getting your feet on the ground to plan or participate in a local event, the community is the heart and soul of kiting! Not to mention, the after-session bevies are much better when shared!

Wishing you all good winds and good vibes!

Crystal Veness
Editor

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MAURITIUS: THE OTHER SIDE

WORDS ANASTASIA PANKINA PHOTOS FRANÇOIS ROUSSEAU & YAHIA NAZROO

Mauritius is a dream holiday for any kitesurfer with world class waves, tropical lagoons, and an island vibe that can't be matched! Our Brand Manager, Anastasia Pankina, joined Antoine Auriol and the crew at C Mauritius for the inaugural C Kite Festival this June. Read on to find out what she thought about the up-and-coming destination of Palmar!



“ HE INSTANTLY FELL IN LOVE WITH THESE TURQUOISE WATERS AND LUSH MOUNTAIN BACKDROPS. ”

"When I think of Mauritius, I think of backside barrel kiting at One Eye." Olivia Jenkins told me this when I asked what first comes to mind when she hears "Mauritius". It's true for any of us; when you hear Mauritius, most likely, the first place as a kiteboarder that comes to mind is Le Morne and the infamous One Eye. However, being an archipelago

and one of the most desirable destinations in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius has much more to offer around its 177km of coastline.

We've always wanted to see the other side of Mauritius, and, luckily, the perfect opportunity came up in the form of the C Kite Festival, hosted by C Mauritius resort, located in Palmar, on the island's east coast. Their oceanfront property sits on a calm, shallow lagoon protected by the outer reef with consistent cross-onshore wind, perfect for flat water play.

Antoine Auriol, team rider for F-One International, was the host of the event and the perfect person to guide us through this trip. We caught up on the beach, and he shared some insight into what inspired him to plan this event. It started during a visit to Mauritius back in November. Armed with his kite, foil and a wing, he instantly fell in love with these turquoise waters and lush mountain backdrops. November is not exactly the high season for wind in Mauritius, but Antoine, a talented foiler, lucked out and was able to either kite or foil most days during his week stay. He was almost always alone on the water,

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“ HE ENVISIONED PROFESSIONAL RIDERS MIXING WITH LOCAL RIDERS AND RESORT GUESTS IN AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE ”

not only because Mauritius was still so restricted due to Covid last November, but also because the location of Palmar is relatively undiscovered in the kite community. Unsurprisingly, he couldn't wait to share this stunning spot and its good vibes with others.

The idea of the C Kite Festival was born to help raise awareness of this paradisiacal spot. Antoine wanted to create an event that doesn't exist at the moment and help to promote the peaceful east coast of Mauritius. He envisioned professional riders mixing with local riders and resort guests in an informal atmosphere, sharing their passion for kitesurfing, riding together, and soaking up the chill, beachfront vibes, all under one roof.

His dream became a reality six months later, and I was lucky enough to be there! I was bursting with excitement as I boarded my flight to join in on this island adventure. Not to mention, I couldn't wait to leave the thick wetsuit at home and put my new Manera Bikisuit to the test in the blissfully warm Indian Ocean.

In late June 2022, the C Kite Festival was ready to welcome riders from all parts of the world, and local kite heroes were on the way to join the fun and share the water at Palmar. The C Mauritius resort would be our playground for the next few days, and the location couldn't have been more perfect.





“AS SOON AS THE WIND PICKED UP WE WERE QUICK TO GRAB OUR GEAR AND EXPLORE THE BEAUTIFUL LAGOON.”

Arriving from the hustle and bustle of city life in the UK, I can't describe the immediate feeling of relief when I stepped off the plane, saw the swaying palm trees, and felt the heat of the tropical sun. The resort arranged our transfer, and the high level of organisation and hospitality was a welcome holiday from the responsibilities of home! We instantly felt welcomed and, somehow, a part of the family.

We were lucky enough to have a couple of days to unwind before the event officially kicked off, and as soon as the wind picked up we were quick to grab our gear and explore the beautiful lagoon. Sadly, some were not so lucky with their luggage, and some board bags decided to take a trip of their own, and it wasn't to Mauritius! Thankfully, the local reps from F-One, Manera, Duotone, Airush and North stepped in and saved the day!

As the wind filled in, as did the sandy beach in front of the hotel, which quickly filled up with the latest gear from these brands, giving visitors plenty of opportunities to borrow and test the new releases they hadn't tried before. C Mauritius resort is a gem for a relaxing kite holiday; it is quite a novelty to be in the pool one minute and on the beach, ready to launch your kite the next. After your session - or between them - you can grab a drink or a snack at the bar in a flash!

During this trip, Airush athlete Victor Hays said, "We who live in Europe are so used to kiting busy local spots.



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“ KITES WERE PUMPED AND READY, AND THE BEACH AT C MAURITIUS QUICKLY BECAME THE COLOUR OF A RAINBOW. ”

It is so unusual to be in a spot such as Palmar with maybe two or three kites on the water at the same time, right in front of a beautiful hotel; it is just amazing".

Most of the riders were blown away by the beauty of this location, and even the locals who often ride at Le Morne enjoyed this new experience in the tranquil lagoon of Palmar.

The more we chatted to the riders at the event, local and international but frequent visitors to Mauritius, the more this location identity became obvious; Palmar is not a wave spot, and Palmar is definitely not Le Morne. It is, however, a perfect location for freestyle, freeride and coaching. The comfort of riding in their waist-deep water, with the added safety measure of a rescue boat in case one is needed, makes this the place to kick back and leave your worries - and the crowds of Le Morne - behind.

However, this time, a crowd is just what Antoine envisioned. My time in Mauritius was shared with a crowd of like-minded kitesurfers, all taking part in the downwinder to the nearby Poste Lafayette beach. The wind was on, kites were pumped and ready, and the beach at C Mauritius quickly became the colour of a rainbow. The excitement was high as the community came together, helping each other to get on the water safely and get the downwinder started!

Just a day before, the lagoon was bare, but today, it was filled with people! It never felt overcrowded,

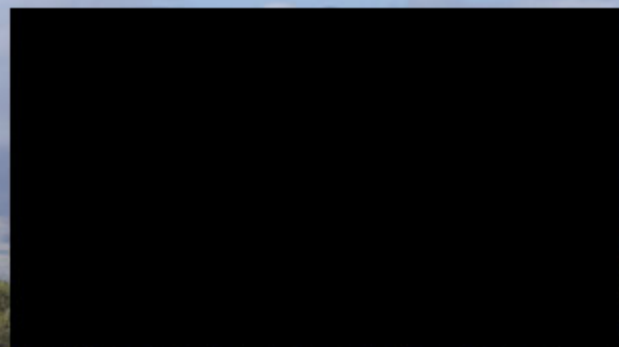


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“EVERYONE WAS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR EACH OTHER ON THE WATER”

and there seemed to be space for everyone tacking back and forth upwind of the resort, waiting for the signal to "go"! This downwinder was not a race nor a competition to show off; it was an experience to share this beautiful coastline with others and an opportunity to create a memory of everyone riding together while sharing this incredible adventure. Over sixty riders took part, both professionals and amateurs, men and women, young and old, and everyone arrived safely at Lafayette beach.

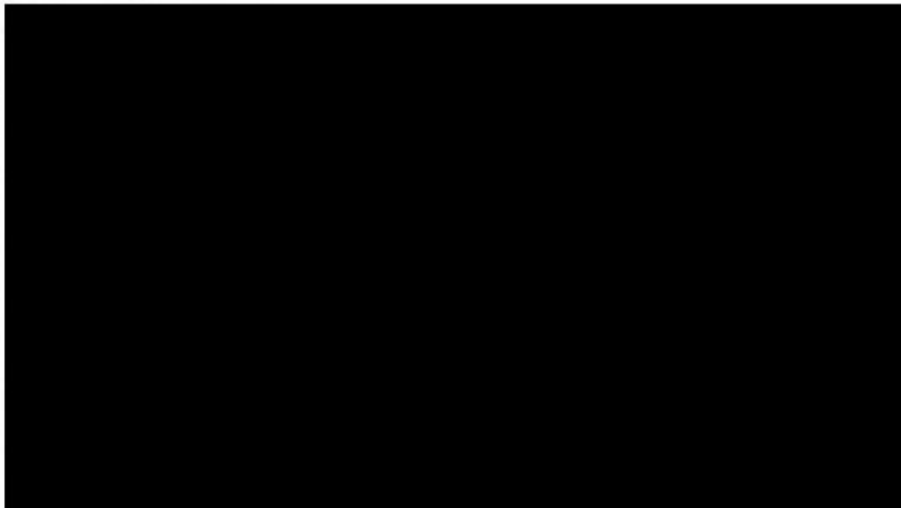
The downwinder was a real highlight of the trip and a fantastic achievement by Antoine and C Mauritius. Later, he shared that he was quite stressed, as the journey was not far, at only around 9km; however, with currents and a large group, anything can happen. But, thanks to our wonderful kiting community, everyone was on the lookout for each other on the water. Just in case, there were four safety boats following us all the way, and I felt very safe at all times, with only an occasional sea turtle popping up to check out what all the fuss was!

Later in the day, back at the resort and after a filling lunch, the wind was still blowing, and the Big Air competition took place. The entry was open to anyone who wanted to give it a go and was a fun community event judged by the professional athletes. It was yet another way to share this location with local riders and guests at the hotel, and a fun atmosphere with a touch of competitive energy, given the awesome prizes available to be won!





RIDER: KADEN SPONHAUER | PHOTO: ERIC DURAN



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“ WE WERE SO IMPRESSED BY THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE EVENT AND HOW QUICKLY STRANGERS BECAME FRIENDS AND GUESTS BECAME FAMILY. ”

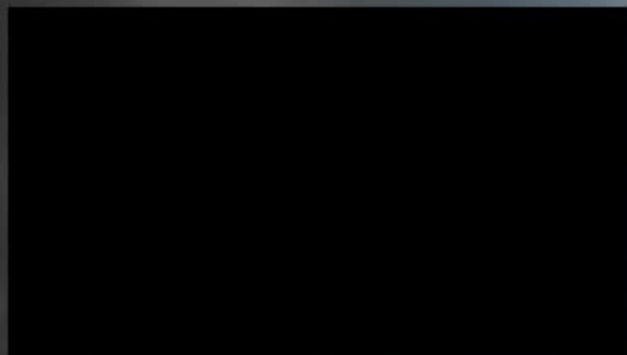
Jeremy Chan, a local athlete who was at Palmar for the first time, said, "When I got invited to the event, I didn't have a lot of details of what to expect. However, the event was very impressive, such great organisation by the C Mauritius team and Antoine; they really made a great event happen!"

Sitting on the plane on our way back to the UK, we couldn't stop reminiscing about our experience. We were so impressed by the smooth running of the event and how quickly strangers became friends and guests became family. It was hard to leave after soaking up those good vibes and the relaxed atmosphere. Then again, when staying at a place like C Mauritius, it's impossible not to have a great time! They really made us forget our worries, and having a fantastic kitesurfing lagoon literally on your doorstep was just a cherry on top of the cake.

We hope that C Kite Festival returns for another edition next year. As Antoine said, it was his first event of this kind, and you can always do better. Considering what a success the first year was, we can't imagine how epic the next will be! Let's see what happens, and maybe we'll see you at C Kite Festival next year, where you can experience this little slice of paradise for yourself!

RIDER ANASTASIA PANKINA PHOTO CHRIS JONES





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CARTAN 2

INSIGHT

ZARA HOOGENRAAD

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTOS ANTONIO HERRERA TRUJILLO

Among the most influential female kiteboarders on the Big Air scene at the moment, Zara Hoogenraad embodies power, strength and determination. A new name on the scene, but this one is definitely here to stay! Jen Tyler got to know all about Zara Hoogenraad in this exclusive interview!



" I STARTED TAKING KITEBOARDING LESSONS AND IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SPORT. "

Zara, you've been on our radar for a while, and we're super excited to have you featured in this issue! Can you share a little bit about yourself, your background, and how you got into kiteboarding?

Thanks so much for having me. I'm so excited to be a part of this issue!

I was born and raised in the Netherlands. Growing up, kiteboarding wasn't a part of my life; in fact, no one in my family kiteboards! Back then, we often spent our family holidays in Tarifa, and I remember always being fascinated by the number of kites on the beach. When we returned to Holland, I started taking kiteboarding lessons and immediately fell in love with the sport.

Then I bought a van, converted it into a campervan, and spent my summers in Tarifa! I worked at a bar in the evenings and kiteboarded during the day. My first kiteboarding holiday was in Brazil with Giel after I completed my bachelor's degree in 2020. That's where I landed my first kitemoops!

Was kiteboarding always your 'thing'? What were your passions growing up, other than kiteboarding?

I've always been into health, fitness and travelling. So after high school, I took a one-year break to travel to Africa and Asia to explore the world. After that year, I started studying Real Estate Management in the Netherlands. During the second year of my studying, I got into kiteboarding, which changed my whole life. Now, I'm exploring the world and travelling to the windiest destinations while I do what I love the most in life. Health and sport have always been essential to my lifestyle, and I still include this daily.

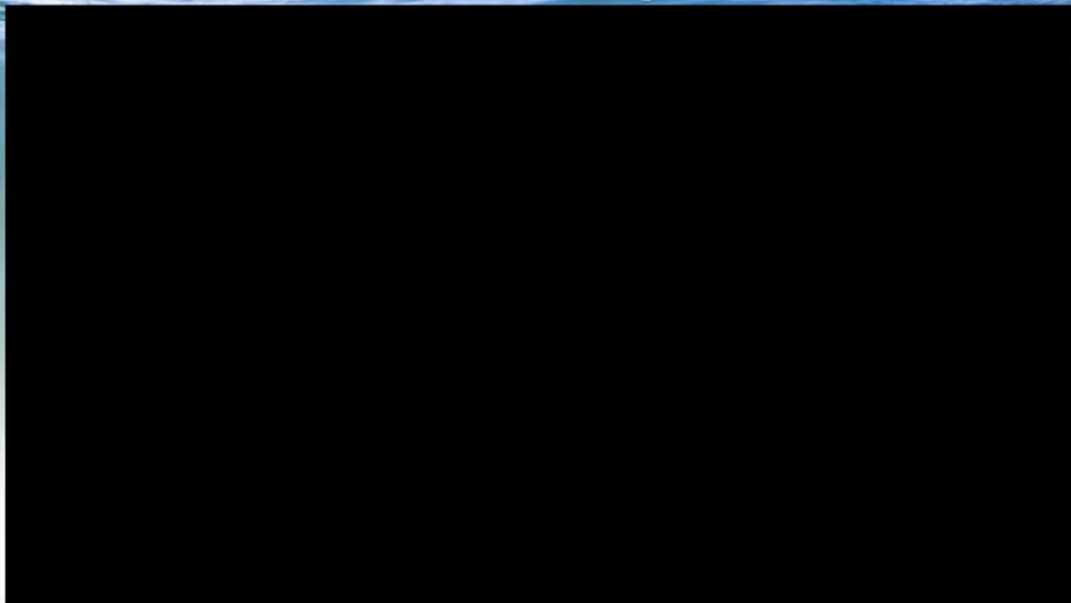


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CF950

You've been chasing strong wind everywhere, and your competition performance has been amazing! When did you first become interested in Big Air?

Giel, who was just a friend then, inspired me! In 2020, Giel also bought his campervan, and we decided to make a road trip to Tarifa with our vans while we were looking for wind along the way. Giel had devoted the whole year to training and progressing in Big Air. After I got my sponsorship with CORE, I decided to do the same thing; I'm so happy that I made that decision.

We've got to ask! How did you and Giel meet? Was it 'Big Air' love at first sight – or flight?! What's it like training together?

We met five years ago in Tarifa. Giel was teaching kiteboarding there, and I was trying to launch my kite. He wanted to help me because I was in the wrong spot to launch my kite. It was blowing strong Levante that day, and I had only had three kiteboarding lessons in the Netherlands. After attempting to kite, I crashed my kite in the water and had no clue what to do. Giel came to rescue me. Now, five years later, we are together living our best lives! We're training together and keep each other focused and motivated. Training together makes training more fun. We help each other achieve our goals and encourage others to push us.

How do you prepare for a competition like the recent GKA Big Air competition in Tarifa?

I dream big; it inspires and motivates me. Preparation is key, so I set realistic goals that I break down into small steps. Every step brings me one step closer to my dreams. Highs and lows are part of life,

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



GIEL VLUGT AND ZARA HOOGENRAAD
PHOTO THIS PAGE MARIA COLE



but if I protect myself from the lows, I end up missing all the highs too. So I often have to remember not to be too hard on myself. That's why I try to focus on things I can control while pushing myself to achieve my goals.

What has been your proudest moment in a Big Air competition?

One of my proudest moments was my first place at Full Power Tarifa and my Vice World Champion title at the GKA Big Air World Championships in Tarifa. The win in Full Power Tarifa was extra special because Giel and I both became first that day, on our home spot, after Janek had his accident the day before.

" I OFTEN
HAVE TO
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NOT TO BE
TOO HARD
ON MYSELF. "

QUEENS + KINGS

GKA BIG AIR WORLD CHAMPIONS

Big Air Female TwinTip

- Mikaili Sol
- Nathalie Lambrecht

Big Air Male TwinTip

- Andrea Principi
- Liam Whaley

Big Air Female Strapless

- Camille Losserand
- Mikaili Sol

Big Air Male Strapless

- Airton Cozzolino
- Lorenzo Casati



" I KNOW WHAT I WANT, AND I AM
IN LOVE WITH THE PROCESS. "

When it comes to Big Air, the risk of injury is, unfortunately, 'when it happens' as opposed to 'if it happens', but that's all part of the adrenaline rush, isn't it? So how do you feel when you are in the zone? What part of Big Air makes you want to push your limits as far as possible?

I want to become the world's best Big Air female kiteboarder. I'm constantly working on improving myself and putting myself in situations that create pressure. The kind of pressure that either makes or breaks you.

I know what I want, and I am in love with the process. When the wind is strong, I'm often facing fear. Then, as I move up and get better, I try to convince myself that my anxiety will just disappear, but it doesn't.

Giel recently told me that I have to embrace my fear as a challenge rather than run away from it. It's okay to be scared, he said; we all are. I have to ask myself how badly I want this thing I'm so afraid of and how I can learn to work through the fear when I feel it. I trust my gear 100%, but I must remind myself to trust my

skills and abilities. This trust doesn't develop overnight. I'm constantly learning to build more confidence. Preparation and focus reduce risk because there is less fear if I am prepared and focused. It's scarier to do a late back roll in 45 knots than in 25 knots. But here's the catch. Fear never goes away. You don't get less scared – only braver. When you are too comfortable, you avoid things that might scare you. It's time to start pushing more. And when the adrenaline is racing through my body, and I land that trick in 45 knots, it's one of the best feelings in the world!





Watching that reel of you and Giel giving Janek your trophies literally made me tear up! What inspired you to do that?

Janek's injury happened one day before the Full Power event. So Giel and I spent the whole day prior to the event in the hospital to support him. On the way back to Tarifa, we agreed to win this event for Janek. Throughout the event, he was on our minds. We were thrilled when we heard we had won.

" THROUGHOUT THE EVENT, HE WAS ON OUR MINDS. "



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" STAYING FIT AND MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IS A SUREFIRE WAY TO FEEL MY BEST. "



The next day we decided to give Janek our trophies. It was hilarious because he thought we just brought our trophies to show them to him. When he realised that we had brought the trophies to give to him, he didn't believe us at first. When our intentions became clear, the funny man giggled and said, "I can't believe I competed in Full Power twice and I won four trophies!".

Athletes must maintain mental as well as physical health. Can you tell us about your fitness routine? Do you incorporate mental wellness into your routines?

Staying fit and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is a surefire way to feel my best. Staying in shape reduces the risk of injuries and allows me to absorb my crashes better. As a result, I push my body to be at its best on and off the water. I train four days a week where I focus on a glute and hamstring workout, a quads and calves workout, a push day (chest, shoulders and triceps) and a pull day (back, biceps and forearms). Strength training and stretching promote strong muscles, which directly translates to my performance in Big Air.

An important way to support building my strength is with good nutrition. I focus a lot on consuming enough proteins, carbohydrates and fats. In addition, I build up my mental health by having fun while I stay focused on my goals. I give myself time to achieve my goals and focus on what I want by being mindful.

What is your CORE quiver of choice for Big Air? How is CORE supporting your career as a professional kiteboarder?

I mainly use the CORE XR7 as this is the best kite to jump high. Most of the time, I ride 20m lines because I feel more controlled, and the kite goes lower.



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MASTER C+
Performance Freestyle / Freeride
136 / 139



COMMANDER
Performance Freestyle
137 / 141



AG PRO
Performance Freestyle
137 / 141

If I want to get a little bit more height, for example, on flat water or when the wind is not that strong, I use 22m lines. I use the Fusion 5 board in size 137cm. I like this board because it has a lot of flex, makes landings soft and cuts through choppy water easily. I always feel safe riding my gear, no matter the conditions.

CORE is supporting me in every possible way at the moment, and I am beyond stoked to have them as my kite sponsor. It has been such an exciting journey so far, and I can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the future.

Can you share with us a no-wind day in the life of Zara Hoogenraad?

I try to use a no-wind day to be more in tune with my mind and body. Just because the wind isn't blowing doesn't mean that I can't be improving. Joy, happiness and excitement improve my performance. I find joy in being active, so on a no-wind day, I usually go to the gym to move my body or do some outdoor activities. But, if I'm feeling super sore, then it's time to take some rest! I love food, so I take the time to cook and enjoy some delicious meals. Also, I love to spend time with my friends and family. So, on no-wind days, I try to do things that make me happy.

You recently returned from a trip to Dahab's Blue Lagoon; What was that like?

Blue Lagoon is a lovely place with stunning clear blue water. It's an escape from the modern world because there's nothing there - minimal services, no signal, no internet and no fresh water to shower. It's also an adventure to get there since there are no roads.



"IT HAS BEEN SUCH AN EXCITING JOURNEY SO FAR, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE."



"IT WAS A GREAT TRIP THAT PROVIDED ME WITH GOOD TRAINING AND LED TO A NEW, CLOSE FRIEND!"

You go with a small boat from Dahab, which is a mission. I stayed in the overnight camp Abo Aid for a few days and kited the whole day. I went there to get good training for the GKA Big Air World Championship in Tarifa.

Mostafa Abbas is a pro kiter from Egypt. He's one of the nicest people I have ever met and arranged everything for us in Egypt. He introduced me to Nathalie Lambrecht, who I've been training with her for the World Championship, and she's been killing it! During the GKA, we became close friends and shared the podium. Overall, it was a great trip that provided me with good training and led to a new, close friend!

Speaking of close friends, what's it like having Dice as a travel companion?

The love I have for this dog is beyond words! We've had so many adventures together. Dice loves travelling in the van, and she is great company. She listens very well, so I can take her almost everywhere. When I go kiteboarding, she stays on the beach and runs upwind and downwind!

When I travel in Europe, I bring her everywhere, but since riding for CORE, I have started travelling to places outside of Europe. Luckily my parents and Giel's parents are always happy to look after Dice when we are gone. We're thinking about taking Dice to Brazil for the first time this year, so hopefully,

that will all work out. Fingers crossed!

What are your upcoming plans for the season? Do you have any exciting trips booked?

Currently, I am in Oman to do some Big Air training and escape the crowd in Tarifa. My next competition will be the BAKL event in Tatajuba in Brazil, where I'm heading in mid-August to do some training before the comp. Afterwards, I'll probably go to Tarifa, then head to Cape Town in November to support Giel for King of The Air, and in December will be the last BAKL stop.

Thanks, Zara; it's been great meeting you! Let's catch up soon!

Absolutely! Thanks, Jen!

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UK STOKE

EXPLORING THE KINGDOM OF WIND

WORDS MEGAN BARNETT PHOTOS MIRIAM JOANNA

The release of a new kite always comes with the excitement and, often, the chaos of a product shoot - and this story is no different! FLYSURFER's newest LEI kite, the STOKE, has just been announced, and the team got together to show what this kite is capable of in a unique location. Read more in this IKSURFMAG exclusive article!

“ WE WERE SURPRISED TO FIND ALL ARROWS POINTING TOWARDS A NOT-SO-CONSPICUOUS OPTION, THE U.K. ”

To tell the story of a kitesurfing product shoot, you must start at the beginning. Before the riders first set foot on the beach and the kites take their first flight with a camera crew capturing each moment, there is the critical decision of choosing the ideal location.

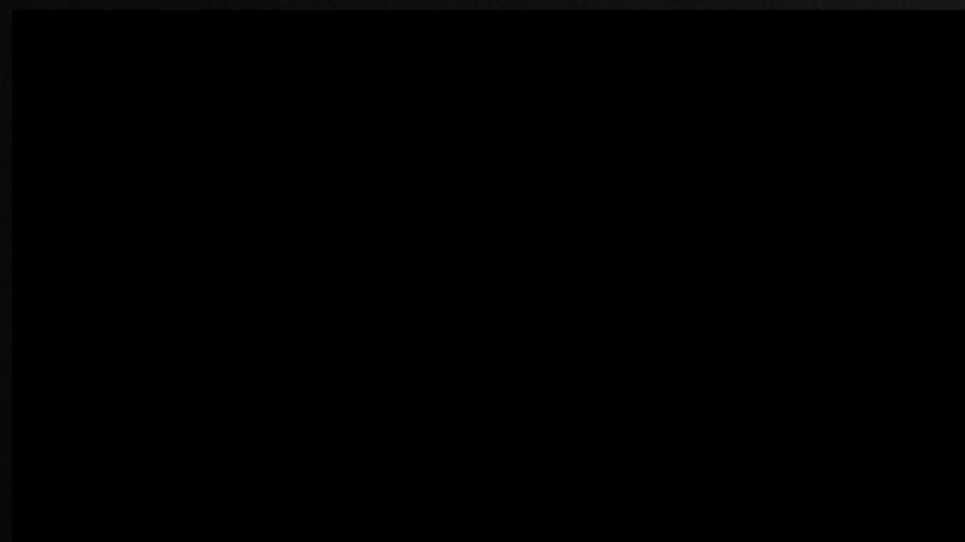
The turquoise peeling waves of Mauritius and Hawaii came to mind first, naturally! Heavenly waves are a no-brainer, especially with the big step-up in wave performance in the new STOKE. We considered locations with consistent conditions closer to home, like Fuerteventura. But, as we have all come to realise over the past couple of years, travelling is not as simple as just rocking up at the airport in flip-flops and a t-shirt for a complication-free holiday. From mandatory Covid vaccinations and potentially long quarantine periods, which were the case for Mauritius and Hawaii, to sand storms engulfing the island of Fuerteventura, we had to think outside the box. After weighing up dozens of options, we were surprised to find all arrows pointing towards a not-so-conspicuous option, the U.K. To our luck, the forecast was looking good, so we rounded the team up and headed for the southwesternmost tip of England, Cornwall.

While the U.K. isn't particularly well-known for epic surfing or wave riding conditions, those in the know appreciate that it can be epic, picturesque and crowd-free. Like with many shoots, a lot needs to align within a short time window. When it comes to stellar wave riding conditions in the U.K, there are A LOT (yes, capitalised) of factors that need to be on your side.



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“ WE WERE OVERCOME WITH EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE DAYS TO COME. ”

And that's all before we even started to worry about the sun coming out! Fortunately, the forecast promised a rising swell accompanied by cross-offshore wind at our first spot, Gwithian.

U.K. locals Olly Bridge and I, Megan Barnett, were first to arrive and put the kettle on at the Three Mile Beach luxury cottages,

our base for the first week of the trip. Situated a stone's throw back from the dramatic cliffs of Gwithian Beach, the bright array of self-contained cottages felt like walking through the perfect beach house Pinterest board, from the wooden barrel sauna to the free-standing bathtub in one of the bedrooms. Shortly after, FLYSURFER's Marketing Manager, Ines Rodlauer, arrived with Matias Lee and photographer Miriam Joanna.

As we all looked out from the top of the cliff at the waves rolling in, we were overcome

with excitement about the days to come. We were in a scenery utterly different from the usual places you see in magazines. The deceptive turquoise waters suggested we could have been in Mauritius or Hawaii, albeit 10 degrees colder. Still, there was something about Godrevy Lighthouse standing proud on the rugged little island in the distance that made this place feel so much more captivating.

On the first morning, we woke up with the 5:00 am sunrise, eager to see if the conditions would match the forecast. The waves were rolling in, but the tide was too high for any kiting. To pass the time,



“ WE EXPLORED A TINY SECTION OF THE BEAUTIFUL 630-MILE-LONG SOUTH WEST COAST PATH IN FULL SPRING BLOOM ”

we headed south to check out Marazion, another spot only 15-minutes away. It quickly became apparent why this area of the U.K. is a surfer/kitesurfer's dream. It's one of those areas where you can surf or kitesurf in any wind direction within just a short drive. We explored a tiny section of the beautiful 630-mile-long South West Coast Path in full spring bloom before heading back to check on the tide at Gwithian.

When we arrived back at the spot, it was 9:30 am, and time for Matias and Olly to get on the water and ride the new STOKES. As the sun played hide-and-seek with the clouds, Miriam photographed for two hours capturing Matias and Olly spraying white water off the back of perfect 4-foot waves, like white rain falling upon the lighthouse behind. But, these tranquil scenes didn't last long.

As the boys came in for a rest, a group of tourists came up, begging for a photo with them and their kites. Of course, one of the tourists pulled Matias's power lines whilst posing for the photo. Before there was time to scream 'STOP!!', they had both been launched halfway across Gwithian Beach, with Matias' surfboard catapulting straight into the back of his head. Fortunately, the conditions had passed their peak, and the rain came in during Matias' 2-hour wait to get his head glued shut in the hospital. The doctor advised that he take a couple of days off the water. Luckily, Alina Shalin and Roderick Pijls had just arrived with videographer Lidewij Hartog that evening to take over his wave-riding shift.

INNOVATION



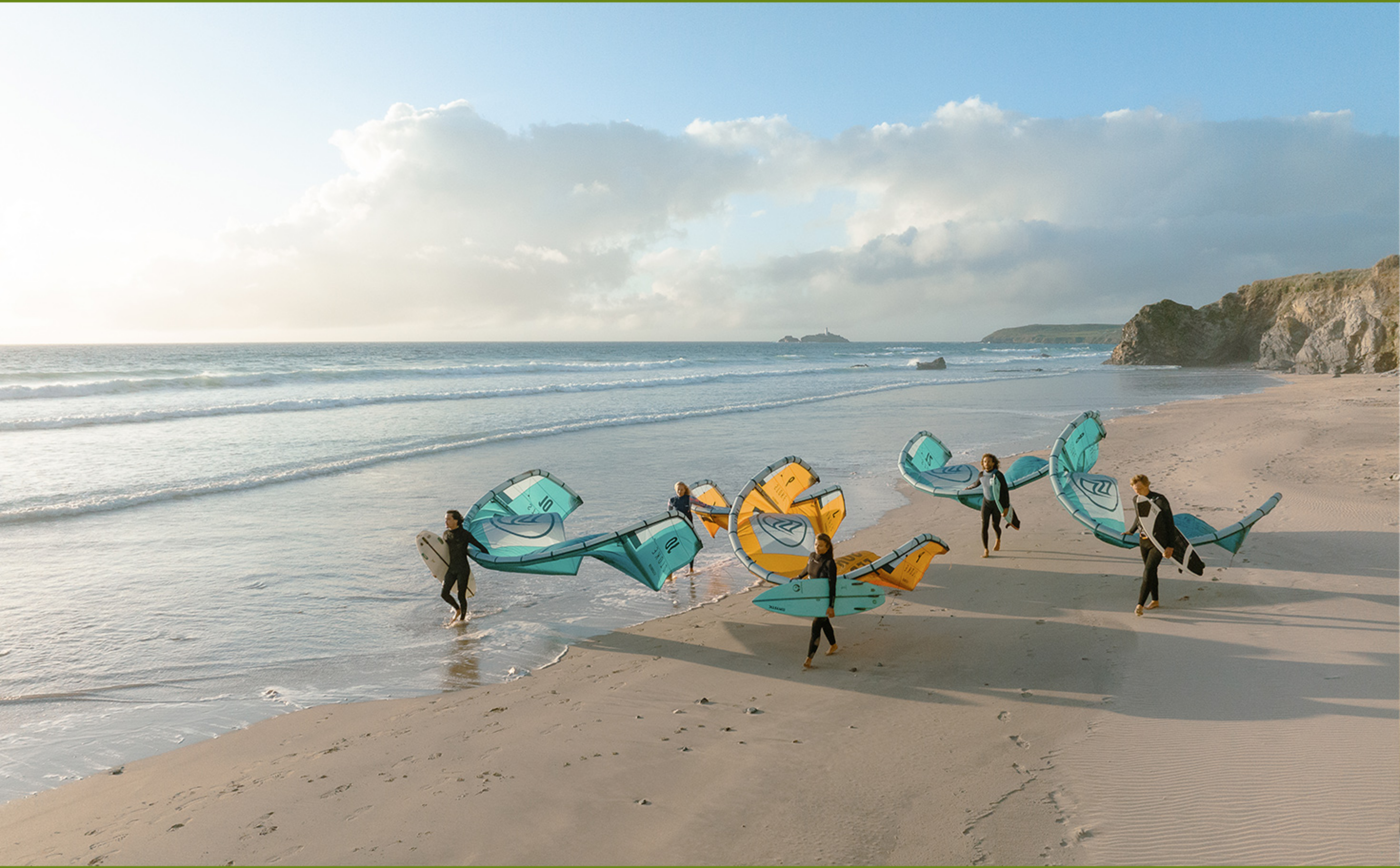
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The following day, the waves seemed a little messier, but the swell had grown, and by 9:45 am, it was time to get back on the water. Alina, Roderick and Olly rode endless glossy left-handers while Lidewij and Miriam took wide-angle shots from the water. Miriam later moved back onto dry land to capture the riders and new STROKE amidst the rugged mudstone backdrop. The crew stayed out for five hours, catching wave after wave after wave. This would be for the best, as it would turn out to be the biggest and best day of the trip.

**“ THE CREW STAYED
OUT FOR FIVE
HOURS, CATCHING
WAVE AFTER WAVE
AFTER WAVE. ”**

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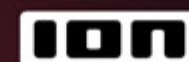
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MORE PERFORMANCE

MORE WATER TIME



“ THE REALISATION OF HOW LUCKY WE HAD BEEN DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF OUR TRIP BECAME APPARENT. ”

As the conditions shifted, the realisation of how lucky we had been during the first two days of our trip became apparent. Ready for a change of scenery, Roderick and Matias tried their luck at a freestyle session in the river mouth near Hayle. The flat-water lagoon looks exactly like Brazil, with a little less sunshine and a pretty little church poking out in the background. It has the potential to be a great spot, but the off-shore wind direction made this a very gusty session. Olly also went for a foil at Marazion with the new STOKE while the wind was light; foiling alongside St. Michael's Mount, a huge stone castle standing tall upon a tidal island, was magical, and made for some spectacular drone shots.

Unfortunately, just as our final team member, Johanna-Catharina Edin, arrived the next day, the wind completely subsided, providing the rest of the team with a well-earned rest on dry land. We took advantage of this perfect opportunity to explore the British coastline, capture lifestyle shots and visit the local pub. With a new seaside village to discover every 15 minutes or so, it felt like a real adventure cruising the coastline. Miriam and Lidewij found excitement and inspiration around every corner as each new photogenic scene presented itself. One of our favourite places to visit was the town of St. Ives, the epitome of a British fishing village, with cobbled streets and rows of brightly painted cottages with troughs full of flowers upon each window. It's a must-visit in Cornwall and the best place to sample the freshest fish and chips.





“ FOILING ALONGSIDE ST. MICHAEL’S MOUNT, A HUGE STONE CASTLE STANDING UPON A TIDAL ISLAND, WAS MAGICAL ”

It was hard to leave this magical scenery, but the time had come to begin the second chapter of the trip. The team made the 6-hour journey up to the southwestern tip of Wales, an equally beautiful and perhaps less discovered region of the U.K. known as Pembrokeshire. It is this corner of the world where Rou, owner and publisher of

IKSURFMAG, is based. He soon equipped us with all the local knowledge on where the best kite spots were, and we were beyond ready for some more wave-riding.

On our first day, we headed for Newgale, a beautiful half-sand, half-pebble beach in the heart of the National Park. We were craving another good session, but the wind had other ideas and never broke 10 knots. Instead, we took the opportunity to capture some close-up shots of the 4, 6, 8 and 12m kites. In true British fashion, the rain took

over most of our afternoon, so once again, it was back to the accommodation to plan for the upcoming days.

The next morning, we woke at the crack of dawn and set off to a secret spot we had been told of that looked just like it was from the Lord of the Rings. But, as the best kite spots go, it was quite the mission to get there. Our 5:30 am alarms went off, followed by a 30-minute drive and a 40-minute walk down to the spot. Massive, dark, jagged cliffs crept out from a misty beach creating an incredible backdrop for Catta and Roderick's 10m STOKE kite session.





While the conditions were not the most epic, completing our action shot list and scoring some seriously dramatic drone clips was a success. After a quick breakfast stop, the team headed for 'the Harry Potter beach', where we linked up with the IKSURFMAG team, Rou and Anastasia, and tester Liam, for a session.

For the final chapter of the trip, Ines, Miriam and Matias headed a few hours south to Exmouth in Devon to see where Ollly and I grew up. They got to meet the entire Bridge family and see the highly respected watersports centre they have created right on the seafront, Edge Watersports.

“ SCORING SOME SERIOUSLY DRAMATIC DRONE CLIPS WAS A SUCCESS. ”

FREERIDE	PERFORMANCE	UNPARALLELED
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	138 X 43	140 X 44

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**“ IT’S A SERIOUSLY BEAUTIFUL
FREESTYLE HEAVEN THAT IS ALSO
EXCELLENT FOR FOILING. ”**

To our luck, Exmouth works in all but a few wind directions with two flat water spots to choose from. Over the trip's final days, we all scored multiple kite sessions on the river spot known as 'The Duckpond' as it's where to head when the wind is N/NW. In the summer evenings, the land breeze fills in, and you can kite amongst the boat moorings as the sun sets up the river behind you. It's a seriously beautiful freestyle heaven that is also excellent for foiling.

Our trip to Exmouth was fuelled by coffee and acai bowls from the appropriately named Hangtime Café, a cool beach shack Olly and I set up on the Exmouth seafront. The team loved Exmouth so much that they extended our trip a few more days! After spending the week getting way too used to boat-tripping to the pub on Olly's boat, 'the 3G's,' it was time to wave goodbye to the U.K. With fond memories and a newfound appreciation for the landscapes, the incredible sunsets and the array of conditions the U.K. has to offer, we couldn't have been luckier. And, hopefully, you get the chance to experience the same one day, should you be so lucky!

TECH FOCUS

CABRINHA X-SERIES MKII

Q&A with Brodie Sutherland

Cabrinha's re-designed foil system, the Cab Fusion, is about to add an all-new front wing to the lineup! In this Q&A, we find out what's new in the X-Series MKII and go behind the design with Brodie Sutherland!



" AS FOILING HAS BECOME BIGGER AND BIGGER, THE DEVELOPMENT HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT. "



RIDER THEO DEMANEZ
PHOTO WIND ADVENTURES

Brodie, when we last spoke, you were working with Cabrinha as a kite and foil designer, but a lot has changed since then! What is your main focus now?

I'm mostly working on the wings and foils now. We have Pat Goodman, the legendary kite designer, back at Cabrinha. I'm still contributing to a couple of the kite models, but for the most part, Pat's doing all the kites, and I'm responsible for wing and foil design.

When you initially joined the Cabrinha team, did you have a specific interest in foil design?

I came on wanting to be in the kite industry and began with the kite control system. The foils became kind of a natural progression, which I had an interest in. I was working with our product development manager on them and eventually ended up taking them over. As foiling has become bigger and bigger, the development has become more important.

Do you remember the first foil you designed, whether it was for Cabrinha or just as a hobby?

Haha, I actually made one in high school; that was some plywood that I sanded down into a foil shape and added a welded chunk of aluminum.

There is a big new release at Cabrinha that I'm sure foil lovers and your existing customers are very excited about. Can you give us an overview of the new X Series MK-II?

Yeah, so we were able to work with NTNU and a naval facility in Norway called SINTEF, from which we got a lot of data and research on our last version of this foil. With that, we designed a more efficient, performance-driven foil with a wide use range.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NTNU

BARREL NUT

The idea with the new X-Series is, in the big sizes, to have a very entry-level foil that works for lots of people. For those who want a more performance-driven foil, the small sizes offer that. They're not insanely high performance; we have other models for that, like the H series, our high aspect wings, but the X-Series are an excellent all-around foil that performs well.

Our 2100, 1600, and 1240 will be bigger, more user-friendly, and ideal for winging, dock starts, or even stand-up paddling. The 930 and 700 would be higher performance options that would work great for kiting and winging. We've covered a whole range in 5 sizes, and I think we've achieved our goal of designing a fairly high-performance foil that's easy to ride.

Were there key areas of performance in the MK-I that you identified and wanted to improve upon in the new MK-II?

In the first version, one of the main points I noticed was when you breached the wingtip, it didn't handle that very well. It tended to ventilate, where air gets pulled down the bottom side of the foil, causing it to lose the lift, stall, and crash. With the new version, you can do turns with the wingtip out of the water, and it's a lot more efficient from that perspective.

For those familiar with the older model, the new MK-II would feel overall more efficient, easier to pump, cleaner turning, and an overall better platform.

Are the new MK-II front wings compatible with the Cab Fusion system?

Yes, it's all backwards compatible and works with the previous Cab Fusion components. We did do one upgrade, however, so instead of having three screws at the mast to wing connection at the bottom, there are now two screws in the bottom and one on the side, called a barrel nut, which is still compatible with the old mast.

This change adds stiffness to the whole system and more durability over time. We found that those tapered connections are really good for the first maybe year or two, but as you assemble and disassemble your foil, there's wear on all the parts,

and that connection gets looser. So, by having that side bolt, it grabs the side of the mast, and you just have a much more stable connection for the long term.

So, if a Cab Fusion rider wants to upgrade to the new wing, they don't have to start over; they can just add a new front wing to their existing setup?

Yeah, exactly, so if you're already invested in the system, it's a marginal upgrade compared to buying a whole new foil. You can just get the new front wing and get a new feel from your ride without a huge investment.

It sounds like you can really tune your foil setup with just a few small changes. What are the extremes that you can achieve within the MK-II and Cab Fusion family?

Yeah, you can really change the feel of a front wing just by messing with either the fuselage length or the stabilizer. I guess the two extreme ends would be, say, the 700 with the short fuse and the 180 tail, which would be your tiniest, most maneuverable setup. You can imagine this like a really twitchy sports car. Then, if you were to go the far other end and take one of the big foils, like the 1600 or 2100, and put the huge tail on it with a super long fuselage, it would be an ideal first-time beginner setup for someone just starting out and looking for something as easy as possible. This is more like a train on train tracks and very locked in.

The Cabrinha development team is travelling a lot for testing, and nowadays, it seems like luggage issues seem to be quite significant. If you were going somewhere where you're doing multiple sports,



" YOU CAN REALLY CHANGE THE FEEL OF A FRONT WING JUST BY MESSING WITH EITHER THE FUSELAGE LENGTH OR THE STABILIZER. "

" YOU CAN PICK ONE OF THOSE MIDDLE SIZES AND THE MIDDLE-SIZE STABILIZER, AND IN GENERAL, THAT'S GOING TO WORK VERY WELL ALL-ROUND. "



whether it's kite foiling, wing foiling, surf foiling, pumping, whatever, and could bring only one setup that would work with just about everything, what would that be?

In general, if you look at our range, the middle of the range is based on the average rider in most conditions. So, you can pick one of those middle sizes and the middle-size stabilizer, and in general, that's going to work very well all-round. The top end is designed for light wind or going slow, and the other end is more for speed and performance.

Personally, I would probably take the X-Series MK-II in the 1240 or 930. I like the foil to be a bit looser, so I'd take the 180 tail. But, for more stability, the 230 is a good call. They don't weigh much, so I'd take both!

I've been really liking the shorter fuselages because they're more maneuverable, but again, the mid-length offers up more stability. To keep it super simple, I'd take the 1240 and two tail wings, and that gives me a ton of options on how I want my foil to feel.

High-performance can be quite the intoxicating buzzword, but why should a consumer consider a more all-around, user-friendly foil?

Our more high-end H Series foils have been really popular, but the X-Series is for the majority of the market who needs versatility in a foil. People talk about high-performance foils versus beginner foils, but in general, if you have a foil that's easy to ride like the X-Series, it allows you to do more things than a high-performance one can. A high-aspect, advanced

foil can sometimes be more difficult to ride.

I've heard that the jump in performance between the MK-I and MK-II is pretty significant. Can you share a bit of insight as to why?

When Cabrinha changed ownership and left The Pryde Group, the foil system was the first thing to change. We had foils, but they were quite basic, kite industry standard foils. The foil project was the first one that got a big investment from our new owners, who wanted our foil lineup to not just compete but become the best foils available on the market across all sports. The first Cab Fusion system was part of that first big engineering project, and we went back to the drawing board with a completely new approach - that's when we brought out the first X-Series.



" WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEW HIGH-PERFORMANCE WINGS IN THE PIPELINE, SO THE DEVELOPMENT IS RELENTLESS. "

As soon as that was out, we were already working on the H-Series and all the smaller components. It was also at a key time when wingsurfing and SUP foiling was emerging, and we took a big decision to look at the main connection in the foil, the front wing to fuselage, and decide to make it one engineered piece to maximize the stiffness in the system. This is key when riding bigger wings or when loading the foil through turns or jumps.

With every project since moving to the Cab Fusion, we were able to bring our new findings into creating the new X-Series MK-II, which is a big leap from the original models.

What more can we expect from Cabrinha's foil program in the near future?

We have some exciting new high-performance wings in the pipeline, so the development is relentless. As we progress with our foils, it's also not just about the wings. There's the mast and fuselage that are key components, and we're constantly making small improvements here which have an impact on the feel of a foil.

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

TECH FOCUS

GIN KITEBOARDING

Q&A with Sylvain Peretti

The Gin Kiteboarding team has recently welcomed designer Sylvain Peretti. With a focus on inflatable kite and wing development, we find out what he brings to the table in this Q&A!



An aerial photograph of several kitesurfers on a vast, blue ocean. The kites are large and colorful, featuring patterns of blue, white, and yellow. The surfers are small figures on the water, leaving white wakes behind them. The sky is not visible, focusing the viewer's attention on the activity on the water.

" I HAVE BEEN DESIGNING KITES FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS NOW AND I SURELY HOPE I HAVE ACQUIRED SOME SKILLS IN IT. "

Hi Sylvain, thank you for taking the time to join us for this Tech Focus interview! As the newest addition to the Gin design team, we had to find out a bit more about you. Tell us a bit about yourself and when you started kitesurfing?

I started kitesurfing pretty late, in 2008 to be precise. At that time, I had been designing kites since 1997, but I had gotten into a serious motorcycle accident which had paralyzed my leg, so it was impossible for me to put my feet in straps without risking spraining my ankle. During a kitesurf trip, around the time strapless kitesurfing emerged, my roommate convinced me to have a shot at it, and I have been kitesurfing ever since that very precise day! The funny thing is that I have never tried a twin tip in my life, but I still have a very wide range of variations to choose from within the sport itself (strapless surf, foil, tiki, wing). But I must say, having been in the industry for so many years, I would probably have tried it anyway at some point, just out of curiosity.

What are your responsibilities at Gin Kiteboarding and what experience do you bring to the team?

I am in charge of tube kites and wing design. Long story short, I have been in sail making since the end of the 70's (boat & windsurf sails). Then, at the end of the 80's, I started to design paragliders. And at the end of the 90's I started to design kites! I have been designing kites for more than 20 years now and I surely hope I have acquired some skills in it.

How do you feel about your new adventure at Gin Kiteboarding?

I am thrilled about my new collaboration with Gin Kiteboarding, whose global project I find very interesting. To me, it is a very complete brand,

" I WILL FOCUS ON GIVING THE TUBE KITES AND WINGS A DISTINCTIVE IDENTITY "



which creates premium equipment. I like the way of working that is set in place within the team. Everybody just gathers and shares about various topics, in a collegial way.

While Gin has a strong line-up of foil and ram air kites, there have been some new additions to the inflatable range. Are you focused primarily on the inflatable line up?

Yes, I will focus on giving the tube kites and wings a distinctive identity, which is already the case for Gin's ram air kites.

Tell us more about the recently released Quiver! Aimed at the free ride market, can you tell us more about the flying and performance characteristics?

The concept behind the Quiver is a kite that is able to suit any board (twintip, surf, tiki, or foil) that an advanced rider could use depending on the weather or the spot.

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TECH FOCUS

ARMSTRONG FOILS

Q&A with Armie Armstrong

While not the biggest brand in the industry, it's clear that Armstrong Foils has a proven product. With foils that suit any and every watersport, including some designed specifically for kitesurfing, we caught up with Armie Armstrong to find out what goes into making the perfect foil!



Armie, tell us a bit about Armstrong Foils. When did it all begin, and what was the goal at the outset?

I first got into foiling with some friends in Raglan, New Zealand, about 10 years ago. We were kite foiling and trying to tow into the surf after we saw Laird charging some Raglan swell on a modified Mike Murphy sit-down foil setup with boots.

Learning in the surf, we broke most of the gear available – due to a lack of skill probably – but what seemed like bad luck at the time actually turned into the spark for Armstrong Foils! I had to keep fixing our gear and wanted bigger foils than the early kite foils we had, so I decided to make my own. After many, many failures and some successes, I tried designing a foil system I couldn't break and could also use for downwind SUP foiling.

At the time, I was a keen amateur SUP racer. In fact, I competed at the Gorge SUP race in 2016 on a self-made foil. It was the first ever foil category entry in a SUP race, much to the amusement of the SUP crew. They all thought I was completely mad, sanding my foils to reshape and improve them by the side of the river every day...

I've been involved with sailing and boats since I was a baby sailing the globe with my family on a ketch named Maya. My father is a very talented architect, so I roped him in to help draw up the male/female mast to fuselage bottom bracket concept. We based our first production designs on these early drawings and made hand-shaped foils that got cut and reshaped many times until we had something we liked.

The first full carbon rigs worked better than expected (with key help from some friends who are top NZ boat builders) when surfing on a SUP, towing a boat wake,

" I TRIED DESIGNING A FOIL SYSTEM I COULDN'T BREAK AND COULD ALSO USE FOR DOWNWIND SUP FOILING. "





“ WITH THE LOCAL KNOW-HOW AND KIWI ATTITUDE TO GIVE IT A GOOD CRACK NO MATTER THE CHALLENGE, IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA. ”

and freestyle foil kiting at low speeds. This really was the birth of Armstrong Foils. Once I had a fully working foil and some kite and SUP foil boards, I was very lucky to get backing from Rob Whittall and two other Raglan friends of his. With this, we could attempt to get our first working foil system prepared for potential production. It was an exciting time indeed!

Do you think that being a New Zealand local, surrounded by some of the best water sports athletes in the world, inspired you to make your own mark on the industry?

For sure! I've been fortunate to have the influence and advice of many incredibly talented people in NZ, and it's no coincidence we hold the America's Cup – talent, inspiration, and hard work come in spades here! These efforts rubbed off on me, and with the local know-how and kiwi attitude to give it a good crack no matter the challenge, it seemed like a good idea. I wasn't ever trying to leave my mark, just wanting to build awesome gear.

What were you doing differently at the start that set Armstrong Foils apart from the market?

Our core goal was to make a setup that was fun to freeride, strong, and almost impossible to break – because I like to thrash gear! I also need equipment to help me feel like I can keep up with the younger rippers as time ticks on. That means using different materials and shapes.

From high-end boat building, I learned that titanium and carbon are soulmates meant to be together, literally forever, in a marine environment. They have the best strength to weight performance available.



" IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE RIDER WHO WANTS TO PROGRESS ON THEIR FOILING JOURNEY AND TO KNOW WHAT THEY NEED TO GET THERE. "

Threaded parts in titanium are simply beautiful to use, durable and offer maximum corrosion resistance. With slightly softer 316 screws, the combo is a perfect mating of form and function. This does mean the material and manufacturing costs are many times more than traditional alloy systems, but I believe the results are well worth it.

In your opinion, are there differences between hydrofoils produced by a hydrofoil company compared to hydrofoils produced by a kiteboarding company? What would these differences be?

All foils and foil systems have inherent strengths and weaknesses. I don't think they are necessarily defined by what sport they're designed for, it's more about how well thought out the design concept and physical

completion are. It's really important to understand the rider who wants to progress on their foiling journey and to know what they need to get there. Conversely, it's really important for the prospective foiler to be honest with their skill level and ability and not choose a setup that's too advanced for them.

Many early kite foils were quite small with short fuselage lengths. These required fairly fast takeoff speeds that made for fast, fun foils for skilled riders, but learning became harder. Most modern foils from both kite and foil companies offer performance ranges that work well for different riders. One important difference with a more foil-focused company like Armstrong is the thoughtful development of a system where each and every part is compatible across all the

foil sports. For us, that means that changing just a front foil (or maybe even just a tail shim) can take the rider on various journeys into wing, surf, SUP and wake foiling.

What goes into designing a foil that is well-suited to the kiteboarding market? How do you approach the design process?

As I mentioned, I began foiling on early kite foils. Prior to that, I got hooked on kiting in all its wonderful forms during a windsurfing trip to Maui in 1999. We've been making foils for kite foiling for almost ten years now, and have always had a kite foil in the range. That allowed us to make a lot of small developmental steps in freeride kite foils. Each one improves the ride for more people to become stoked on the foiling sensation.

Our HS625 and HS850 are still awesome foils for kiting, but with our more recent foils, we spent a lot of time thinking about improving the speed range while also increasing stability.

I have always set the goal to make our foils feel like a great surfboard during that perfect bottom turn on a clean wave. It's possibly an endless pursuit, but fun and rewarding to try! This means our new, smaller foils are suitable for freeriding and freestyle kite foiling, all while being more forgiving for progressing riders. Rippers also love pushing them in waves.

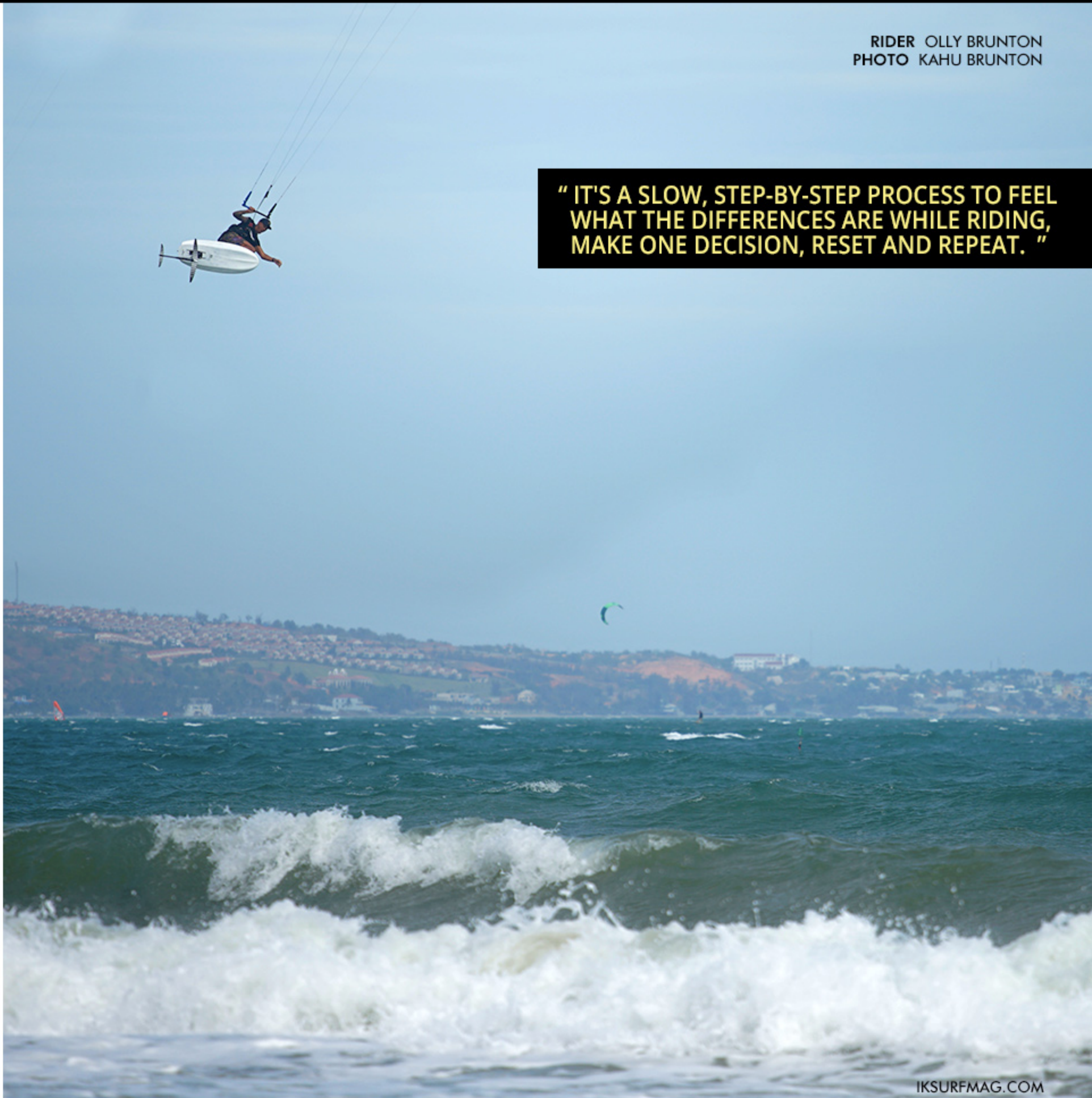
When it comes to testing prototypes, how does this work? Do you get it out on the water, or is it tested in a workshop or factory setting?

We do a ton of technical testing for stiffness, loaded twist, and strength on various test machines, but all the shaping decisions are made on the water riding the foils. It's what I love doing! I will literally go insane if I'm not on the water almost daily. Every time I'm on the water, there is something different to test, so basically, it's a slow, step-by-step process to feel what the differences are while riding, make one decision, reset and repeat. If I had a dollar for every foil screw I've tightened!

I've heard some great things about the stiffness of Armstrong masts. How do you achieve this winning combo of lightness and stiffness?

We were really lucky to have key input from top America's Cup boat builders on our mast core structure and layup. We've achieved what we believe to be the optimal balance between strength, weight, and flex, and we're able to put the flex specifically where we want it. We always use the best intermediate modulus and high modulus carbon fibres available in all our foils.

" IT'S A SLOW, STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS TO FEEL WHAT THE DIFFERENCES ARE WHILE RIDING, MAKE ONE DECISION, RESET AND REPEAT. "



“ THERE ARE ALWAYS IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE WITH MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES, AND WE NEVER STOP TESTING ”



RIDER OLLY BRUNTON
PHOTO KAHU BRUNTON

The mast top above the waterline does indeed need to be very solid. Our tapered shapes combined with our unique mast top hardware achieve this, but we firmly believe that the lower part of the mast needs to have reactive flex. It makes the foil feel more reactive when driving into bottom turns and helps with timing into oncoming wave sections. For a strict race foil, it may be that stiffer is better, but that's not the case for freeride foils where reactive flex of well-oriented fibres aids stability in turbulence and whitewater. There are always improvements to be made with materials and construction techniques, and we never stop testing and developing our constructions every day.

Which Armstrong foil do you think is best suited to kite-foiling, and why?

It depends entirely on the rider's skill level and the conditions as to what foil will be best. Currently, the HA525, HS625, HS850, CF950, and HS1050 generally cover small, medium, and large riders. For kiting, these foils could be set up with either our 100cm or 85cm masts, the TC60 or TC50 fuselages, and the HA195 or HS232 stabilisers. Generally, the bigger HS1050 and CF950 are great foils for light wind riding or learning, the HS850 suits smaller beginner or intermediate foilers, and the HS625 and HA525 are for rippers wanting to supercharge their freeride sessions. The 625 and 850 are best suited to waves, while the 525 loves flatter water or bump riding sessions.

Armstrong does produce a line of foil boards, but are Armstrong hydrofoils compatible with kite foil boards from other brands?

Yes, our foils can be put on most third-party kite foil boards. We generally recommend placing our masts toward the front of the foil board tracks.

The Armstrong custom carbon A+ System foil tracks are much longer than most, and our foils are designed to perform best further forward.

Foiling can become a costly hobby, especially as riders progress, change location and conditions, or even start to look for foils that can work on kites, wings, and in surfing. How have you future-proofed Armstrong foils to make the changing needs, and changing quiver, of your customers as pain-free as possible?

All our components are modular and interchangeable, and our gear is designed to take riders in all foil sports from just starting out to full send charging. This means that less gear can do the job, and it will last longer so that you don't need to buy all new gear to progress. Personally, I do it all on an 85cm mast, TC60 fuselage, and the HA195 stabiliser. Depending on what I want, I just swap out the front foil.

Lastly, which is your go-to setup for a kite foil session?!


That depends on wind and water conditions, but it's always either the HA525 in flatter water or HS625/CF950 in waves. I pair these with an 85cm mast, TC50 fuselage, and HA195 stabiliser with none or half a degree of shim.

Thanks so much for taking the time, Armie!

Thank you for driving the stoke!



" OUR GEAR IS DESIGNED TO TAKE RIDERS IN ALL FOIL SPORTS FROM JUST STARTING OUT TO FULL SEND CHARGING. "



If there's one thing you can count on from a CrazyFly shoot, it's consistency! They are guaranteed to have great vibes, stunning scenery, and photos that pop! The 2023 collection shoot just went down in the Dominican Republic, and Lilo Fourré takes us behind the scenes. Turn the page to experience the adventure...

WORDS LILOO FOURRÉ PHOTOS LACI KOBULSKY

DOMINICAN DREAMING



“ IT'S NO MYSTERY WHY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP DESTINATIONS FOR KITESURFING. ”

With wind blowing all year round, it's no mystery why the Dominican Republic is one of the world's top destinations for kitesurfing. While visitors often get caught up in the North Coast mecca of Cabarete, the spots further afield, like Las Terrenas, Las Salinas, Punta Cana and Buen Hombre,

offer scenery that is hard to beat. The peak months for wind in the Dominican Republic are between May and August, when it blows every day. That's why, once again, the team at CrazyFly Kiteboarding chose this Caribbean paradise to shoot the 2023 collection.

For this trip, our team included CrazyFly International riders Lilo Fourré (France) and Posito Martinez (Dominican Republic), along with our latest recruit, Lorenzo Calcano. Lorenzo is one of the best young riders in the Dominican Republic and really

talented in Freestyle, Big Air, and Foil. He is also competing in the GKA Freestyle World Tour, and we are really happy to introduce him to you! Of course, A CrazyFly shoot isn't complete without Laci Kobulsky (Slovakia), a talented kitesurfer and cameraman, and the one who took all of the photos featured in this article!

This trip started in one of our favourite spots, the beautiful Buen Hombre in Monte Cristi province. Buen Hombre is a fisherman's village and one of the windiest spots in the Dominican Republic. In summer, the average wind speed is 25-30 knots most days.



“ OUR RIDERS WERE EXTREMELY HAPPY WITH THE NEW GEAR AND COULDN'T GET TO THE WATER FAST ENOUGH TO TEST IT ALL OUT. ”

Complete with water that is turquoise blue, flat, and shallow, it's hard to imagine a more picturesque place. It's a spot we know and love, but we were excited to explore further and go on an adventure to discover new spots in the area. Above all, we couldn't wait to ride in spots where no one has ever kited before.

Our team arrived at Kite Buen Hombre, an Eco-Lodge and Kite School situated right in front of the Buen Hombre kitesurf spot, where the staff welcomed us very warmly. This spot is perfect for beginner to advanced level kites, and the team at Kite Buen Hombre is just so welcoming and nice. They also organise lots of unique kitesurf excursions in the area and around the country, such as boat trips and downwinders. Do you love to do downwinders with a perfect postcard view? This is the place to go!

On the first days of the trip, we started in the tranquil kite heaven that is Buen Hombre, where we discovered and got to know the new 2023 product lineup. This year, there is a lot of novelty in our new range, and we can't wait for you to discover it for yourself! Our riders were extremely happy with the new gear and couldn't get to the water fast enough to test it all out.

The bay of Buen Hombre, protected by a reef, features shallow water with lush mountainous backdrops. Colourful fishing boats dot the shoreline, and you'll often see the catch of the day come in, available at the local restaurants in the evenings. It's a tiny village with an incredible amount of charm, and we enjoyed every session in this little paradise.

RIDER POSITO MARTINEZ

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After shooting for a few days in Buen Hombre, we set off with the team at Kite Buen Hombre to discover incredible and untouched places in the province of Monte Cristi. Far removed from the big tourist centres, the whole province of Monte Cristi has retained an authentic and warm feeling that is hard to find these days. We did some sightseeing in the town of Monte Cristi and even stopped to explore the National Park El Morro, a peak that rises 242 metres (794 feet) above sea level, gracing Monte Cristi's coastal scenery with one of the most striking, unique vistas in the Dominican Republic.

“ THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF MONTE CRISTI HAS RETAINED AN AUTHENTIC AND WARM FEELING ”



**“ FOILING IN THE BAY OF THE NATIONAL PARK,
SURROUNDED BY CLIFFS AND SCENERY THAT
IS HARD TO IMAGINE YOU WOULD FIND IN
THIS COUNTRY. ”**

This is one of those few places where no one has ever kited, and we were the first to take up the challenge! Our riders, Posito Martinez and Lilo Fourré, went foiling in the bay of the National Park, surrounded by cliffs and scenery that is hard to imagine you would find in this country. We should probably mention that the National Park gave us special authorization to kite here. Geographically, the spot is very hazardous and only suitable for expert-level riders. We can't wait for you to discover this marvel of a spot in our video.

After a kite session that none of us will ever forget, we headed back to our rustic beach cabins at Kite Buen Hombre to rest and regroup before setting off on our next adventure, a three-day boat trip and kite adventure to Los Siete Hermanos. Sitting 10 kilometres (six miles) northwest of the Bay of Monte Cristi, Los Siete Hermanos consist of seven sandy cays: Toruru, Muertos, Ratas, Terrero, Monte Grande, Monte Chico and Arenas. These spots are untouched by human life, and turquoise water, constant wind, and white sand await you!

We first stopped in Cayo Tuna, where we set up our camp. For two glorious nights, we slept in tents under the stars, only a few metres away from the water. There was no electricity, no water, and no phone signal; it was only us and nature, a real back to basics.





RIDER LORENZO CALCANO



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During our last night, the team prepared a special local meal and a bonfire for us. What a unique experience! It felt amazing to be away from civilization for a few blissful days.

During this trip, we explored the rest of the cays and chose the best ones for kiting and shooting: Cayo Ratas and Cayo Muerto. Cayo Ratas is like the other cays, a no man's land. It is where the region's birds make their nests, and there are hundreds! The spot is offshore, flat, and the water is indescribably blue.

**“ IT FELT
AMAZING TO BE
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CIVILIZATION
FOR A FEW
BLISSFUL DAYS. ”**





“ WE SPENT A WHOLE DAY SHOOTING THERE, AND ON THE PROGRAM WAS BIG AIR, KITELOOPS, FREERIDE AND FOIL FROM MORNING TILL THE IMPRESSIVE SUNSET.”

Cayo Muerto is undoubtedly the best of the best for kiting. It is a square-shaped cay, where the wind is blowing perfectly on all sides, so the whole island is kiteable. We can't forget to mention that it has transparent and turquoise flat water, something we were spoiled with during this entire trip. We spent a whole day shooting there, and on the program was big air, kitemoops, freeride and foil from morning till the impressive sunset.

Have you ever imagined yourself as the only person kiting in a heavenly, perfect, dreamy kite spot? If that's one of your dreams, then you should definitely make this trip!

After these three wonderful days, we returned to our base and continued to shoot in Buen Hombre and its surroundings. A trip to the tropics isn't complete without some tropical weather, and we happened to be there during a tropical storm which hovered over the entire country for a few days with a massive cloud layer. The wind was there, but unfortunately, the sun went into hiding for a few days. That didn't stop us, though!

We kept shooting in the cloudy weather and got some intense and moody shots from our video maker, photographer and team rider, the one and only Laci Kobulsky!

We were so happy at the end of the trip to have spent this time with the CrazyFly team, which is becoming something of an annual reunion. We can't wait for you to discover the new range of our 2023 products, the incredible spots of the Dominican Republic, and get to know our new recruit Lorenzo Calcano, who you are going to see more and more of in the international scene.

Stay tuned, and see you on the water!

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TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE



What snippets of wisdom or inspiration have we got hiding behind the vitrine of technique this issue? Well, we couldn't leave you hanging with just the one carve. To compliment your hopefully well-polished and practised toe to heel from last time, we're having a good look at how to carve your twin tip from heel to toe without losing momentum or tension. Then in classic kitesurf form, it's time to add some subtle style to your jump transition. A little work on your air gybe, and you can morph it into this casual tweak, which should feel quite delicious and look even more tempting than a freshly baked chocolate éclair...

Have fun, C&K.

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HEEL TO TOE CARVE ▶

KITE – Cabrinha Switchblade 8m

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In the last issue, we guided you through the process of improving your toe to heel carve on a twin tip. It seems only right that we should now shine some light on turning back the other way, from heel to toeside. This carve is often considered a tad more tricky than its counterpart, based on the fact that you still need to control your kite whilst concentrating on turning and carving your board in a potentially less intuitive manner. What makes the heel to toe troublesome is the fact that it's not simple to carve your board quickly around, and as such, your kite control needs to be sharp and precise. However, now that your toeside is in the proverbial bag, you have a default position for which to aim, and this should make the transition across your board, from heel to toe, a much more manageable challenge. Let's have a look...

APPROACH & SETUP PIC A

You'll be pleased to hear that it's business as usual here. Before any twin tip carve, the same rules apply. First off, check that the coast is clear and you've got space to turn! You need tension on your lines, which means that you need to be on your edge. You don't need to be edging as if your life depends on it; in fact, in the learning stages of this move, that will only make life more difficult, as you'll have a lot of real estate to cross before you can get the board turning. It's also somewhat related to wind strength, in the manner that if the wind is light, you'll need a touch more edge,



A

whereas if the wind is strong, you can get away with a bit less. To keep things simple for now, we'll start with a gentle edge so that you have tension, and are going upwind, but you're not leaning hard away from your board. Kite position is also important. The "thing" that'll kill your chances off early is a high kite. You want your kite no higher than 1 or 11 o'clock. From this position, it is leading you forwards on entry and is well placed for what's to come. Have a look at Karine in the photo. She's on a gentle edge, with tension in her lines, hands centred on the bar with her kite at 11 o'clock.

KITE FIRST PIC B

And again, it's about using the tension to turn your kite, so the sequence is kite first and then board. Use both hands to steer the kite, pushing and pulling so



B

that you can keep the bar on the sweet spot and therefore prevent yourself from pulling it in and choking the kite. With your kite positioned at the side of the window, you need to be positive on the bar to get it to turn. You're aiming to turn the kite enough that the leading edge turns and just about faces back across the window, sitting deep. If you turn it any less or too gently, your kite will just creep up to 12 o'clock, right above you at the very edge of the window. Here, Karine has started to steer the kite with both hands whilst still on her heelside edge. She's looking forward towards her kite.

FLATTEN PIC C

The great news is that, by using both hands to steer the kite, it will encourage you to rock over the board as you push and extend your lower arm and hand forward.



The result is that you'll flatten your board, leaving your heel edge in the past. This is exactly what you want. As soon as you steer the kite, you can flatten the board. Now's a good time to ponder what your carve is. A carve is moving forwards and steering around a semicircle. The first half leads you until you're pointing downwind, whilst the second half finishes the turn until you're on your toeside edge heading back the other way. To maintain this, you should always be looking where you're going, not so much where you want to go. In less subtle terms, don't look back; you've got a long way to go until that's where you're going! You and the kite will be taking a similar path, and if you can keep some harmony going throughout the carve, you'll have a good chance of succeeding.

Karine is now over her board, and she's steering the kite with both hands. She's watching the kite, which is still very much in front of her.

TOESIDE CARVE PIC D

The crux of this move is making sure you get the board carving. Carving comes from your ankles, so it's as good a place as any to start. Really flex your ankles; this will drive your knees and weight across the board and onto the toeside edge. Keep your head up and resist the urge to bend at the waist. The last piece of the jigsaw here is to drop your weight back slightly, over your back foot. This will put you over the turny rockered tail of your board and should set the carve in motion. Once you're carving, you know that you can



keep up with the kite. Keep turning the kite so that it comes across and down through the window. This might generate too much power, but at least it will prevent your kite from going up and over 12 o'clock. It's clear that Karine is still steering her kite positively. She rolled her weight over onto her toes by flexing her ankles, and her weight is back onto the tail of the board, so it carves. Note as well how her head is up and body upright.

KITE CONTROL PIC E

As you carve towards the halfway mark and the board points downwind, it's all about doing very little with your body and board so that you keep carving whilst controlling the kite. Once the kite is moving across and



down through the window, you need to straighten it up so that it flies straight rather than continues to turn. Ease off the bar and level it. If you've been aggressive and the kite pulls too much, this is when you can momentarily let the bar out to regain balance and control. However, if you do, make sure that you pull it back to the sweet spot immediately. Otherwise, with no tension on your

lines, your kite will fly across to the edge of the window. The point is that here you are flying your kite, using micro-adjustments to make sure that it doesn't race ahead of you. All the time keeping your ankles flexed, knees driving and head up. You can see that Karine's body position hasn't changed at all, even though she's busy easing off on the bar to stop the kite from flying any lower.

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THE SECOND HALF PIC F

As you come through the wind, it's all about keeping your carve on and kite pulling. To help keep momentum, you can release your front hand and hold it forwards. This will help re-centre your weight as you carve around, preventing you from sinking too far back over the tail and putting the brakes on. To help with drive, you can steer the kite gently up with your backhand. If your sweet spot is trimmed close enough, you can do all of the above with two hands on the bar. Karine is looking where she's going, hand leading, and she's still committed to her carve. For a bit of pull and to stop the kite from disappearing to the edge of the window, she has steered the kite up. Her head and shoulders are still upright.



FINISH THE TURN PIC G

From here on in, it's all about getting back onto your toeside edge, finishing the turn. It's so incredibly tempting to look for power by pulling in on the bar. However, do this, and you'll kill power as the kite stalls. Concentrate on turning back upwind and find tension in the lines by using your edge. You're aiming to come out into your default upwind toeside position. You can see that Karine is doing exactly that. Her bar is on the sweet spot, whilst her ankles, knees, and core drive across the board. She pushes her hips forward to centre her weight and get onto the flat planing centre part of the board's edge and then pushes against the board, creating more tension and driving herself upwind against her edge. Job done, carve complete!

TOP TIPS

Sometimes in an effort to edge gently and slow down, you may be inclined to lift the kite before starting your carve. This isn't wrong; however, if you do this, you'll need to dip your kite by steering it down just before you steer it into your carve.

Concentrate on keeping your head and body up. Just like with toeside, it's easy to fall prey to the body's natural disposition to bend and lean into your turn. Unfortunately, this will have the opposite effect and stick the ballast that is your bottom upwind of your heel edge instead of across and over your toe edge. Your kite movement and radius of carve are intrinsically linked. They have to work together.



You can't throw your kite across the window if you are carving slowly and vice versa. At first, go slow with both and steer your kite throughout your carve.

The timing of the kite first can be very subtle, like a heartbeat, kite then immediately board. There's no need for a comedic pause.

Brilliant, now have a butcher's at the sequence for a step-by-step run-through and check out the more detailed video.

COMMON PROBLEMS

By far and away, the most common problem is the kite finishing its turn way before you do. This can happen for a number of reasons, so you'll have to work through them to find out which one is the culprit. Firstly, taking the kite up and over 12. If you do, you'll

end up under the kite, and it can do nothing else but flutter to the other side whilst you slowly sink.

Moving the kite too quickly. When you move the kite too quickly, you don't have a chance to keep up unless you've got a well-polished carve, so ease off the gas. Also, moving it too quickly can generate a huge amount of power. This will cause you to sheet out, which can encourage the kite to sprint off to the other side.

Your carve!! That's right. We can't blame it all on the kite. Carving is a skill, so you'll need to ease into it, practice and persevere. If your board is turning, you can fly the kite and pull yourself around. However, bend at the waist, and your weight goes back and onto your heels. This stops your carve, and you end up going in the opposite direction to your kite. No harmony here.

KEYSTONES

1. Edge in with kite below 11 or 1
2. Kite first, flatten board
3. Steer kite across window with head up
4. Ease off kite, keep on carving
5. Finish your turn to find tension



AIR GYBE TWEAK ▶

KITE – Cabrinha Switchblade 8m

BOARD – Cabrinha XO 136

Here's a nice little add-on to give your jump transition a point of difference. Nothing too shouty, rather some subtle substance that will feel fresh and look on point! Adding some flare onto your air gybe should be within reach of anybody who is happy getting off the water and changing direction with a modicum of control.

The game plan here is to scissor your legs so that your board twists to toeside whilst you hang under your kite, before un-scissoring for a heelside landing. As such, this will potentially be less tricky when taking off on your strong side, as you'll effectively be twisting to your usual toeside in the air. That said, there's no reason why you shouldn't adapt this to either side. Without further ado, let's dive in and see how this works...

APPROACH AND SEND PIC A

This should all be as per your usual bog standard air gybe. You're intending to change direction, so you need to cap your speed. Race in, and you'll have a lot of kite flying on your hands. Your best bet is to come in on a strong edge and, if need be, let your bar out a touch to slow down. You still need lift, so don't be shy of sending your kite from either 1 or 11 o'clock. The crux is for a short sharp send, so be positive with your bar, but send it for less time so that your kite doesn't fly too far past 12. In the photo, Karine is on a good edge, and she's slowed down by breaking at the waist and letting the bar out. However, she's still given the bar a decent pull/push to get the kite travelling for some lift.



TAKE OFF PIC B

As with all things kite, get the take-off nailed, and your likelihood of success is fantastically enhanced. Your aim on take-off is to help yourself up, control the kite and get balanced. Once done, you can concentrate on what's to come. To help yourself up, you need a hefty stamp off your back leg, kicking against your edge. As soon as you kick, you can pull the bar in for some extra lifting power. As you pull the bar in, make sure you level it. This will stop the kite moving any further and ask it to hover around somewhere above you. Whilst keeping the bar level,



make sure that you're level. You can see how Karine's shoulders are level with the bar, as are her hips and head. This way, everything is balanced, and you'll be travelling up in harmony with your kite, a perfect platform from which to move on.

PENDULUM PIC C

As you lift off in an air gybe, there is always a little bit of pendulum. You've stopped the kite, but you most likely still have a smidgen of forward momentum. In this move, it's a bonus. The pendulum will want the lowest part of the "weight", that's you, to swing out; that'll be your feet and the board. To control this,



you want to lean your head and shoulders in the opposite direction, back from whence you came. You can do this by dipping your back shoulder and keeping your head on that side. However, concentrate on keeping the bar level as you dip. Looking at the pic, you can see how Karine's board is swinging out from underneath her, whilst she is leaning to the inside with her head and shoulders,

countering the swing, whilst her bar remains level.

FRONT FOOT PIC D

Once you're leaning and your lower regions are swinging, it's time to get your tweak on! Front foot first. To get things moving, pull your front foot forwards and twist your hips in an effort to point the nose of the board back in the other direction.



This will only be possible if you keep the bar in. Keep your front leg straight, and use your core to twist the board around. You can see that the toes of Karine's front foot are lifting. This is because she's pulling the board around with her front leg. Concentrate on keeping your front leg straight as you'll naturally bend your knee and bring the back foot up as you try to pull.

**E**

SCISSOR PIC E

Now's the time for some multitasking. As you bring the front foot forwards and around, scissor your back foot under and away from you. Imagine you're trying to wipe your foot, pulling it behind you and then extending it further still as your hips twist. With both feet in the mix, it becomes a scissor action, front foot forwards and back foot back.

The further you can accentuate and exaggerate this movement, the more visual your tweak. This added to the board swinging out under the kite will give you a new and unusual feeling and a cracking new look to your jump transition. Once you've got it, try and hold it. If you look at Karine here, she's held her tweak and is on her way down. As such, she's already started to dive her kite.

RIDER ANTOINE AURIOL
PHOTO C KITE FESTIVAL, C MAURITIUS



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LANDING GEAR DOWN PIC F

Whether you dive whilst still scissoring or not, you will need to lower your undercarriage and prepare for landing soon enough. As you start to descend, relax your hips and legs. This should pretty much automatically untwist you so that the board comes across in front of you. Make sure to give the kite a good dive so that it flies down through the window rather than drifting around the edge. You'll need to let the bar out onto the sweet spot to do this; otherwise, you'll get nothing from the kite. Here Karine has relaxed, and the board drops in front of her.

She's eased her bar out onto the sweet spot and given the kite a good dive.

TOUCH DOWN PIC G

And the result is... a gentle tail first downwind landing. As the kite pulls, keep the power on and go with it. Twist your board to point downwind and look where you're going. As the board touches down, make sure to level your bar to stop the kite diving. Once you're settled, carve back onto your edge, ready for another go.

TOP TIPS

Build it up in stages. Start by getting used to leaning



the head and shoulder, concentrating on keeping the kite above you. At first, when you try this, you'll find that the kite drifts around the edge of the window because you're leaning. Once you're happy, move on to bringing the front foot through, and then add a full back foot scissor. Although you don't need much height or time for this, initially, a bit of hang will help you think through it. And lest we forget. This is a transition, so please make sure that you've got space to turn!

Now have a look at the sequence and watch the video...



COMMON PROBLEMS

As alluded to above, it's easy to let the kite travel too far as you swing. A little bit is fine, but too much and landing will be tricky. Make sure you give a hefty stamp against your edge on take-off to kill forward momentum. And make sure that you level the bar to stop the kite drifting too much. The killer here is if you turn your head to look back from where you came, as this encourages the kite to keep moving. As such, even as you lean, don't look back.

Legs bending when scissoring. This is a result of lifting the front foot through. Think of it more as if you're kicking a ball, extending your leg. If your back leg is bending, think the same, push your foot back rather than pulling it underneath you.

Landing on an edge. Generally, the result of the kite drifting, so see above, or not enough time. Go for a slightly higher and floatier air gybe.

KEYSTONES

1. Slow down, short but sharp send
2. Kick and level bar
3. Lean head and shoulders
4. Scissor feet - tweak
5. Relax and dive



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THE INTERVIEW

LEWIS CRATHERN

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

Whether it's jumping piers, claiming podiums, or being the voice on the mic at some of the world's biggest kiting events, Lewis Crathern is, without a doubt, a household name in kitesurfing! In this interview, we find out what he's been up to, from competition to combating climate change. Read all about it in this IKSURFMAG exclusive!





" MY HOMETOWN HAS GREATLY INFLUENCED MY PASSION FOR KITESURFING AND BIG AIR. "

PHOTO BISHOY BUSHRA
MAKANI BEACH CLUB

Lewis, thanks so much for joining us for The Interview! Since I can remember, you have been a fixture in this industry. Can you tell us how it all began? Where did you grow up, and when did you start kitesurfing?

I was born in Worthing, West Sussex, and grew up at my family home on the beach. It's actually in East Worthing, so very close to Lancing Kite beach, one of the first places I learnt to kitesurf. I have always been into sports, and I transitioned from land to water sports at 16 when I started windsurfing. Seeing kitesurfing take off on the beaches around here in the early 2000s inspired me to try it myself; I loved the idea of the height. At that time, I was really into the diving boards at the local swimming pool, where me and about ten mates could do everything off the 3-metre board. Kitesurfing looked like it would give me more time in the air.

My hometown has greatly influenced my passion for kitesurfing and big air. We get such good wind here, often 40 knots or more, and it's given me the experience in those conditions to go anywhere and feel comfortable. I love my town and feel fortunate to have been born there and still live there!

You've inspired many people to get into kitesurfing, but who inspired you to start kiting?!

That's quite a hard question to answer as access to the rest of the world and what they were doing with kiting was not as easy as it is today. Simply put, the internet was still not efficient enough to even watch videos or find the information you wanted. The real inspiration came from everyone that appeared in the Breaking Wind VHS kiteboarding movie (VHS stands for Video Home System; it is how we used to watch things before DVDs!)

I used to watch that video endlessly, especially enjoying the section on South Africa. Space Monkeys also came out quite soon after I got into the sport. That was another film I watched again and again. Aaron Hadlow, being British and a young rider already doing well on the international scene, was also a big inspiration.

Did kiting come naturally to you, or was it a bit of a struggle? Can you tell us your most intense memory from learning to kite?

If I'm honest, to start with, no, not really. In nearly all the sports I had ever taken part in, your own mobility was 100% down to you. Kitesurfing was different; I had to learn how to fly the kite to move around. Of course, my hand-eye coordination and sporting reaction helped me learn relatively quickly, but with the equipment back then being quite unforgiving, it sometimes felt like one step forward and two steps back. I started to meet many lovely people like Kev Maguire and Jez HT Jones, who would take the time to explain to me how it all worked and how I could be safe.

One memory that sticks out to me was when buying my first kite from a South African guy in Lancing, a Wipika FreeAir kite; I had never really flown one. I did a "try before you buy" at low tide on the sand. I had never been in a harness before, and I'll never forget being absolutely worked around the beach when the wind picked up. Driving home after buying the kite, I was a little disheartened, but I got over it and won the battle eventually.

The learning process is well behind you; you've been a star in the big air scene for nearly a decade!

PHOTO MARTYN WELLS



" I HAD NEVER BEEN IN A HARNESS BEFORE, AND I'LL NEVER FORGET BEING ABSOLUTELY WORKED AROUND THE BEACH WHEN THE WIND PICKED UP. "





PHOTO DANIEL FAIRMAN /
TIME4WORTHING

“ ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO DO AS A BIG AIR RIDER IS TO STAY FIT AND READY FOR THE EVENT WHILST STILL TRAINING IN THE DISCIPLINE. ”

You've been in King of the Air nine times; do you have plans to compete in this event again?

If you include the Red Bull Len10 Megaloop Challenge in 2012, it's been ten straight years of competing in Red Bull Cape Town events. I may never have won the King of the Air, but I am proud of my consistency and appearances at the event. One of the hardest things to do as a big air rider is to stay fit and ready for the event whilst still training in the discipline.

It was a lifelong dream to know what it would be like to stand there on the podium, looking out at all those people, and I achieved that in 2018 - my 6th year of competing. My only regret is that I did not convert

more of the semi-final chances into finals, riding in four semi-finals, but only one final.

Whilst I would never like to officially 'call it time', the direction the big air discipline is going and the format of KOTA may not suit my style these days. Sometimes sport is like that, but I like to think about how fortunate I was that the sport came closer to my skill set during a big part of my time at KOTA. I loved big air when I first got on the water, but with the PKRA and freestyle being dominant, I had to park my passion in order to try and compete. When big air returned to the scene, and KOTA came back, it became more and more about who could go the

biggest and get the kite level with them. I had been riding with and following Ruben and Aaron a lot back then and learnt a lot about mega loops. I was in a good position to compete in this side of the sport when the quality of 'The MEGALOOOP' was what scored best.

One thing I will say and something that I have observed over the years is that the very best of the best do not care which direction the sport is going in. Look at Aaron, Kevin and the likes of Liam; such is their natural talent that they can transition into a totally different discipline and still be aspiring to lead it.

" I NOTICED NOBODY COMMENTATING AT A FEW OF THE BRITISH TOUR EVENTS AND IN AROUND 2005, I JUST GRABBED THE MIC AND STARTED HAVING FUN. "

Those who have followed your kiting journey know you experienced **one of the worst accidents in a kiting competition**. Do you think the long-term impact of that situation has affected your 'purpose' in kiting or your drive to focus on other things you value?

That crash back in 2016 was, in a terrible way, what our sport needed to step up in what we were doing with safety. I really took one for the team there! What's ironic is that I have often been referred to as somebody not so safe after my jump over Brighton Pier, but I have always cared about safety and especially for those competing. Kiteboarding events now have safety boats, divers and a well-trained events crew that are ready. When I look back at the video, I never think it's me. I don't really remember much at all from it, so it has not left any long-lasting scars emotionally or physically.

You are one of the most recognised voices in the industry, commentating on events like King of the Air, the GKA Big Air World Championships, Lords of Tram, and others. How did you get into commentating?

I have loved football all of my life. As a child, I remember staying up past bedtime, listening to games on my headphones. The good commentators could paint a picture of what was going on in such an incredible way. I loved how they did this, and so it became a passion of mine to do the same. I even remember commentating on our early FIFA football computer games. Fast forwarding a few years, I noticed nobody commentating at a few of the British Tour events and in around 2005, I just grabbed the mic and started having fun. That was it, really, and as I mentioned already, it is just another way of finding a challenge.



I've always admired your ability to share the action as it's happening, but more importantly, to translate it for people that may be seeing kitesurfing for the first time. Where did these crowd communication skills come from? Were they natural, or did they develop over time?

I owe a lot to kitesurfing and sport for learning these sorts of skills. To start with, by mixing with so many different people of different ages and backgrounds, I gained confidence as a young person. That is definitely one thing you need when speaking on the microphone. The competitive side of kitesurfing and sports, in general, requires many similar skills needed to present and talk, like delivering under pressure, problem-solving, good preparation, multitasking, and maths.

In my own time, I listen to a lot of TALK Sport radio and have educated myself on broadcasting as much as possible, the do's and don'ts, etc. I have always been open to learning from others as well. There is never just one way to do things, and everyone does things differently.

It might look like you just turn up and talk, but I put days and hours into my preparation notes. I love being able to pull out a relevant statistic when necessary, and I love being told in your earpiece, "right, you have 20 seconds to wrap this up and pass to Jo for prize giving"; it's exciting and keeps the adrenaline going.

Our Web Editor, Jen Tyler, spotted you on your recent trip to Egypt while you were working to promote COP27. What is COP, and where do you fit in?



PHOTO GWEC



For a long time now, I have been using my passion for kiteboarding to raise awareness of climate change and highlight how vital the role of wind energy can be. My sponsor GWEC planned the trip as Egypt is hosting the next edition COP27, the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, which takes place in Sharm El-Sheikh from the 7th-18th of November.

For nearly three decades, the UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits – called COPs – which stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. In that time, climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority.

2015 was a real key moment in COP's history as, for the first time, every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees, to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and to make money available to deliver on these aims.

What did you get up to in Egypt?

I was tasked to meet with key individuals and young people whilst gathering a lot of content ahead of the COP27 event later in the year. Those key people included Gareth Bayley - Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. I also went kitesurfing with

him as he is a very competent kitesurfer! We rode at Makani Beach Club, and I actually gave him a big air coaching session.

We also went up to visit Lekela's West Bakr Wind Farm, the huge new modern wind farm about three hours up the coast from El Gouna in a place called Ras Ghareb. Ras Ghareb is a fascinating town which has come about because of the oil and gas industry in the Red Sea. Driving up to the wind farm, you could see just how much of an impact oil and gas had made. Gas containers, rigs, pipes all the way along the road and, most noticeable to me was the graffiti on the side of the road. Oil is Gold.

“ IT WAS FASCINATING TO HEAR HER STORY AND TO LISTEN TO THE CHALLENGES THAT SHE HAS OVERCOME ”



Faisal Eissa (Lekela Energy Egypt Country Manager) met us at the wind farm and showed us around. It was an amazing experience being able to see everything close up but also to take pictures with me and my gear under the big turbines. Faisal is also a keen kitesurfer, and this really connected us all.

During my visit to the wind farm, I sat down with local employee Khuloud Bakry. Her story was really interesting, being a young local woman that worked at the wind farm. She is also a participant in the Women in Wind global GWEC program, which promotes the importance of women in the wind energy workforce. It was fascinating to hear her story and to listen to the challenges that she has overcome. Khuloud's home town of Ras Ghareb is a key example of a local community transitioning from Oil & Gas jobs to Wind Energy, and she told me how many generations in her family have worked in oil and gas, from her great grandparents to her parents and current family today. Khuloud was the first family member to work in renewables.

Back down south, we went to a local school in El Gouna to perform an assembly which went down great. The ambassador also joined me here, which really added something to it. Gareth really cares about climate change, and having him present and also doing a speech was brilliant.

Of course, there was a lot of kitesurfing to be done as all my boards and kites are GWEC and COP 27 branded. We spent every other minute at Makani Beach Club, where my media team, Joost Essenburg (filmmaker) and Bishoy Bushra (photographer), gathered content.



You've been partnered with GWEC for a while now; What is GWEC, and what are their goals?

The Global Wind Energy Council is the international trade association for the wind power industry, effectively the voice of the wind industry. I have been with the Global Wind Energy Council for a year and a half. It's a fantastic partnership, and I love my work with them. We have developed a brilliant school program using kitesurfing to engage with kids, and I am tasked with trips like the one to Egypt to raise awareness to wind energy. Occasionally, I attend Wind conferences which are really fun and great for networking.

GWEC's mission is to ensure that wind power establishes itself as the answer to today's energy challenges, providing substantial environmental and economic benefits. They communicate the benefits of wind power – to national governments, policymakers and international institutions.

GWEC also provides authoritative research and analysis on the wind power industry in more than 80 countries around the world, working with governments to give them transparent information about the benefits and potential of wind power, enabling them to make informed decisions about national energy policies.

Some still doubt that climate change is a grim and immediate reality. Perhaps they didn't experience the highest recorded heat in UK history at 40.3°C! Do you think there is enough awareness around the climate issues we are currently facing?

I think we need to do more to make it clear why we have an emergency and the fact that it is happening now. We are not on course to meet our zero target,

PHOTO DANIEL FAIRMAN / TIME4WORTHING

" I THINK WE NEED TO DO MORE TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHY WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND THE FACT THAT IT IS HAPPENING NOW. "



" THERE NEEDS TO BE INCREASED SCRUTINY ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, NEWSPAPERS AND THE PRESS. "



We are not on course to meet our zero target, which is the simple truth. We have to battle against things like climate misinformation and climate denial.

Climate Denial: Rejection of the proposition that climate change caused by human activity is occurring or that it constitutes a significant threat to human welfare and civilisation.

Climate disinformation and misinformation refers to deceptive or misleading content that:

- Undermines the existence or impacts of climate change, the unequivocal human influence on climate change, and the need for corresponding urgent action;

- Misrepresents scientific data, including by omission or cherry-picking, in order to erode trust in climate science, climate-focused institutions, experts, and solutions; and

- Falsely publicises efforts as supportive of climate goals that, in fact, contribute to climate warming or contravene the scientific consensus on mitigation or adaptation.

To gain trust in solutions against climate change, there needs to be increased scrutiny on social media platforms, newspapers and the press. We can also play our part, for example, by being aware that if we stay online for longer periods of time, we may well be

presented with ideas and arguments that suit our views more, rather than reality.

As someone who has invested a lot of time into working with the GWEC, what do you think can be done in the short term - and the long term - to get us on a more sustainable path?

Overall we need to upscale wind energy. You will hear how it takes 6, 7 or even 8 years or longer to install a wind farm. That's not the actual physical bit of installing them! It does not need to take that long. Policies need to be changed to help us do things quicker.

There are 6 main areas the global wind industry faces challenges in the short and long term.

- Requirement of a bigger skilled workforce
- A better plan to phase out coal and redesign of our electricity framework
- Society: from public consensus, use of land and social acceptance
- Technology
- Infrastructure: Grid modernisation and expansion of infrastructure
- Supply Chain: recyclability of wind farm components and costs for materials.

It's not only the climate that has your attention but the future and the youth that will be in charge of it. Can you tell us about the youth programs you have been working with?

I have been working in schools since 2007 when I first went back to my high school to speak. I instantly felt like I had something (kitesurfing!) that would connect with young people, and I have since visited many schools in the UK and around the world. Duotone has supported me for 7 years with this work, and I have also partnered with the local wind farm here in my town - Rampion Wind Farm and Duotone UK. The Kitesurfing Armada Festival dedicated its first day, Friday, to young people, where I would perform an interactive assembly and a live session for them on the water. The British tour also used to feature wind energy sponsors, and children would visit the events where I would speak to them. More recently, I got involved with the Big Air Kite League 'Lift Off' program, designed for Pro Kiteboarders to share their story and inspire the next generation.

PHOTO SAM CLARK



" I AM A PASSIONATE COACH, AND WHEREVER I AM IN THE WORLD, I LOVE TO BE WORKING WITH PEOPLE. "



PHOTO BISHOY BUSHRA

What has inspired you to work with school children and young people? As a pro kiter, what sort of knowledge are you sharing with them?

Kitesurfing has some immediate synergy with sustainability, looking after our beaches, recycling and staying healthy, but I like to also talk about my journey since school. I ask them what they want to do with their lives. Some know, and some do not. I definitely did not know! I think it is important to explain to young people that you can do things that you love as a job. Stay close to your passions, and your life will develop around them.

You're not just educating children; you're also working with grown-ups and experienced kites. In fact, you coached me into landing front rolls consistently and with confidence - and grabs! Have you been doing more coaching in recent years?

Haha, I bet you are doing doubles now? I am a passionate coach, and wherever I am in the world, I love to be working with people. Sport and competitive sport is about facing challenges and wanting to overcome them. Many other areas of life are like that, I am finding. Coaching is a challenge! Everybody is different and to communicate what you are looking for in exactly the right way for that person is a challenge I love. Nothing is better than that feeling when somebody really executes what you are trying to communicate.

Can you share one of your most recent highlights in teaching kiting?

There was a lovely moment with the Ambassador in Egypt when I decided we needed a break. I wanted him to achieve a better hang time, and we were both a bit tired. I got us to both bring our kites down to the water so we could really talk directly,

which is where I explained about always having the bar sheeted in fully in the air. Next jump, he was floating nicely!

You've accomplished so much already, but what would you say is one of your greatest accomplishments to date?

Brighton Pier, and to put myself mentally into that place where I could deliver that jump. That will always be one of my greatest achievements. I had to switch the whole world off in my head for a year to do that. I learned so much.

It's hard to imagine you've got time for anything else, but what's next for you? What does the second half of 2022 have in store?

We have a very busy summer in England now with Duotone UK, but the events scene will start to pick up again. I'll be doing some more commentary jobs at the end of summer, and we will start a campaign in Asia with GWEC in the Autumn. And then, just like that, Cape Town comes round again!

I need to thank my sponsors for all their support with the work I do: Windguru, WOO Sports, ION UK, GWEC, Duotone International, Gareth Bayley (British Ambassador to Egypt), Faisal Eissa (Lekela Egypt), El Gouna, Three Corners Hotel, and Makani Beach Club..

Thank you, Lewis!

Thanks!

" I HAD TO SWITCH THE WHOLE WORLD OFF IN MY HEAD FOR A YEAR TO DO THAT. I LEARNED SO MUCH. "





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MAUI

The windy season is back in the UK, and the IKSURFMAG Test Team has been taking full advantage of the warm weather and breezy conditions! This issue, we tested the out-of-this-world Slingshot UFO V2, the latest Ozone Reo, the CrazyFly Hyper, and one of F-One's most high-tech foil boards. The ladies will want to take a closer look at this set of reviews, as we've put three women's accessories to the test with wetsuits from Manera and Ion and a harness from Prolimit. Don't feel left out, dudes, as we've also got the lowdown on the latest Prolimit men's harness! Keep on reading to find out what we thought of these new releases!

KITES & BOARDS

Slingshot UFO V2
Ozone Reo V6
CrazyFly Hyper
F-One Pocket Carbon Custom

ACCESSORIES

Manera Bikisuit
Ion Amaze Core
Prolimit Vapor Pure
Prolimit Alpha



TRIED & TESTED

BRAND SLINGSHOT

MODEL UFO V2

SIZE 8M

YEAR 2022



" IF FOILING IS IN YOUR DNA, THE UFO IS FOR YOU! "



AT A GLANCE

Slingshot's UFO (Ultimate Foiling Machine) is in its second generation and has had quite the overhaul, to say the least. You may remember the days of the older Slingshot kites which had a tendency to be heavy, but were also known to be bombproof. The UFO V2 is the absolute opposite end of that spectrum, and a sign of changing times over at Slingshot.

Fred Hope, Slingshot's Foil Guru, has been pretty involved in the development of this kite, and if you don't recognise his name, you should definitely check out some of his videos. It is mind-blowing what he is able to do with that kite, and he really shows the full potential of an extremely lightweight strutless kite.

While we didn't have the opportunity to test the original UFO V1, and can't offer a comparison, it is apparent that there have been some massive developments between the 1st version and the current one. Their product description tells us that they've changed up the leading edge material to a DLE 140, which is 25% lighter than the old DP 175 used in the V1.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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

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

BRAND OZONE

MODEL REO V6

SIZE 7M

YEAR 2022



"FAST, RESPONSIVE AND INTUITIVE TO FLY, IT'S UP THERE AS ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE WAVE KITES ON THE MARKET."



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

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

AT A GLANCE

The Reo is the dedicated wave kite from Ozone, perfect for the rider who wants an uncompromising tool to maximise every session. Ozone is known for only releasing new products when it is ready, and the new Reo V6 comes with updated material technologies and tweaks to the design to further improve the flying characteristics.

We've long been fans of the Reo here at the magazine, a kite that has simplicity at its heart but packs performance into every square metre. While some brands beef up wave kites with patches and protection, Ozone knows that a light kite is a good kite, especially when riding down the line. Their factory in Vietnam is renowned for turning out incredible products, and the new V6 is no exception. While it might look fragile at first glance, the attention to detail and quality of the stitching and material choice is second to none. These are tough kites; Ozone just does it differently.

It's a three-strut design with a simple bridle that features Variable Bridle Geometry; this is a simple way to quickly tweak how the kite flies according to the day's conditions. There are two settings,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND CRAZYFLY

MODEL HYPER

SIZE 12M

YEAR 2022



" IF BIG AIR IS THE ROUTE YOU WANT TO FOLLOW, THE 2022 CRAZYFLY HYPER IS THE KITE FOR YOU! "



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

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

AT A GLANCE

The Hyper 2022 is CrazyFly's big air machine. A 5 strut kite offering great loft and hang time, 2022 saw adjustments to the previous years giving this kite an extra edge. The design is a 5 strut, delta bow shape offering lots of depower yet boosting capabilities.

CrazyFly has been a leading kite manufacturer since 1999. Based in Europe, the brand is known for having the longest warranty in the kite market: 3 years since 2019. Furthermore, CrazyFly has taken a firm stand against climate change by becoming one of the leading eco-friendly manufacturers in the industry: all their kites, bars and boards come in eco-friendly packaging.

One thing that has changed from the 2022 model is the material used on all 2022 kites. TerTex is two times stronger than the Triplex used previously whilst also being forty percent lighter than the previous Dacron used. TerTex is used along all struts, wingtips and over the central strut. In these areas, TerTex replaced Dacron and the 2022 Hyper 12m weighs 3,7 kg instead of 4 kg on the 2021 Hyper 12m.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND F-ONE

MODEL POCKET CARBON CUSTOM

SIZE 120 X 46CM - 16.8L

YEAR 2022



" WITH INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCE IN THE AIR, ON THE WATER AND THROUGH THE TURNS, IT'S A WINNING TICKET FOR US! "



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

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



AT A GLANCE

The Pocket has been an incredibly popular board for F-ONE for a few years; it's a short foil board with low volume for freeride and freestyle foilers. For 2022 the R&D team introduced a new take on the design, the Pocket Carbon Custom. Built with performance in mind, it packs a little more volume into the design and is a little thicker at 4cm. It retains the DNA from the original shape, short with a stubby nose, but this board is a little more squared off in the nose and tail.

The biggest change is the super light construction; considering the volume and thickness, the Pocket Carbon Custom weighs less than three bags of sugar and packs just as much punch. The SLIM Tech Carbon Custom process utilises a CNC-shaped PVC foam core. This is then carefully wrapped in layers of carbon and vacuum bagged to reduce weight and maximise fibre efficiency. In addition, the hand-crafted lamination makes the boards exceedingly light and strong.

Available in three sizes, a 110 dedicated strapless board with no inserts and 120 and 130cm versions with inserts for a y strap configuration.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND MANERA

MODEL BIKISUIT

SIZE MEDIUM

YEAR 2022



" THIS LITTLE NUMBER NOT ONLY WILL KEEP YOU NICE AND WARM BUT WILL ALSO GIVE YOU AN EXCELLENT LEVEL OF PROTECTION FROM MINOR IMPACTS ON THE WATER. "



AT A GLANCE

I have recently had the pleasure to kite in some warmer waters, though warmer than my usual UK, it was still not quite warm enough for just a bikini and a rashy. This gave me the perfect opportunity to try out the new Manera Bikisuit.

Firstly the suit arrived in a simple cardboard box, with no plastic wrapping or any additional unnecessary packaging in sight. Thank you Manera for this! Taking the suit out of the box I instantly noticed how light it is. I know it is only a 2mm suit but it really weighs nothing at all, thus making it an excellent travel companion to warmer climates.

Manera's opening line for Seafarer Bikisuit "Make no mistake, the Bikisuit is not a swimsuit!" and oh boy that is so true. This little number not only will keep you nice and warm but will also give you an excellent level of protection from minor impacts on the water.

The construction of the Bikisuit, as expected from Manera, the technology behind this suit is top-notch.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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

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[CLICK HERE](#)

BRAND ION MODEL AMAZE CORE 5/4 FRONT ZIP SIZE 34/XS YEAR 2022



" FITS LIKE A DREAM AND OFFERS AN IMPRESSIVE RANGE OF MOTION - THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR KITESURFING IN COLDER CLIMATES! "



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

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



AT A GLANCE

Having a proper wetsuit is crucial in the UK during the harsh winters. When it's cold enough to consider if you really want to get out for a session, the right wetsuit can make the decision an easy one. It's a good thing I had the latest Ion Amaze Core 5/4 Front Zip in my closet, or the late winter sessions wouldn't have been very much fun!

You can always count on Ion to have a high quality product that uses the latest technology, and doesn't cut any corners when it comes to style. Taking a look at Ion's Wetsuit Guide on their website, the Amaze Core sits in the middle of the women's wetsuit range, between the more premium Amp and the entry-level Element. This wetsuit combines the best of both worlds with plenty of features at a price that (hopefully) won't empty your bank account.

The Amaze Core 5/4 Front Zip ticked all the boxes for me. It is stretchy, always a bonus in a 5/4 wetsuit, and with minimalistic colours, which is just what I was looking for. The black colour way features a subtle tropical print on the shoulders and sleeves,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND PROLIMIT

MODEL VAPOR PURE WAIST HARNESS

SIZE XS

YEAR 2022



"IT'S GREAT TO SEE PROLIMIT ENTER THE HARDSHELL GAME, AND THIS HARNESS IS A DEFINITE STANDOUT!"



AT A GLANCE

PROLIMIT has continued to expand their harness range, adding some premium new products and highly requested hardshells to the lineup! For a company that has been in the industry since the very start, we have been waiting to see them drop a hardshell for quite some time, and to see what their take on the hardshell looked like!

The team at PROLIMIT describes the Vapor Pure as a pre-shaped moulded hardshell, which incorporates their Mark VI external loadplate, and promises its user full support. When the long-awaited Vapor Pure arrived in Cape Town, I couldn't wait to unbox it and see if it looks as good in person as it did in the photos. Long story short, it did.

It's 3D shape is stiff and features their trademarked Pure composite material, but the inner lining is soft as can be, using Flex-Gen memory foam to complete the package. A nice combination of stiff and soft, and a sure contender to shake up the hardshell market!

The hardshell vs. softshell debate will never end, but we've come to understand that there is no correct answer, only preference.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



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

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

BRAND PROLIMIT

MODEL ALPHA WAIST HARNESS

SIZE SMALL

YEAR 2022



"IT LOOKS SLICK, RIDES GREAT, IS SUPER COMFORTABLE, AND WILL KEEP YOU ON THE WATER FOR LONGER THAN BEFORE!"



AT A GLANCE

The Alpha waist harness is PROLIMIT's top of the range hardshell harness. Equipped with the very best science, design and materials this hardshell design sits right up there in the hardshell market. It seems every brand is now opting to have a premium carbon hardshell in the range and PROLIMIT has hit a home run with this one.

This carbon pre-shaped molded hardshell offers fantastic support whilst coming locked and loaded with the titanium electroplated Alpha spreader bar. As you can see it features a carbon plate that hugs the back of the harness. Inside features soft padded neoprene in the areas that need more comfort offering a comfortable ride and great back support.

Minimal flex, maximum stiffness is what you get from this harness. The Alpha spreader bar has a quick and easy lock in system with easy adjustable tighteners to offer the perfect fit. Once your fit is set simply lock it in and get out riding. You won't find yourself altering the sizing after every session to get the harness on and off. The hook is also a great size and can be easily changed for a surf-slide rope.



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

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

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RIDER GRANT CLAYTON
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK

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

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Lightroom

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



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LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

CAN YOU GUESS THIS SPOT? CHECK OUT GABI STEINDL CRUISING WESTERN AUSTRALIA FROM ABOVE!
PHOTO JAMEIN HUDSON

IKSURFMAG.COM

LIGHTROOM

PHILIPP SCHONGER LINING UP THE SHOT JUST RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ICONIC MT. HOOD, OREGON
PHOTO MICHAEL H. GELB



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LIGHTROOM

DOUBLE TROUBLE! CHECK OUT TWINS ALFIE & ARCHIE CRUISING IN EXMOUTH, DEVON
PHOTO TERRY LUXTON



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LIGHTROOM

MOSTAFA ABBAS GETTING INVERTED OVER THE BEACH IN OMAN!
PHOTO AHMED ALFUDHILI



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LIGHTROOM

WILLEM HOOFT TAKING IN THE VIEW IN LEUCATE, FRANCE
PHOTO AMANDA FABRIZIO



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LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT

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LIGHTROOM

PARIS HOOPER KAY SLICES THROUGH THE STUNNING LAGOONS OF OMAN
PHOTO KHAREEF KITEBOARDING



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LIGHTROOM

GRANT CLAYTON SCORES A SESSION DURING THE GOLDEN HOUR!
PHOTO COLLIE IMAGES

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LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT

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LIGHTROOM

GABI STEINDL THROWING BUCKETS IN THE BEAUTIFUL WAVES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PHOTO JAMES HOOPER



Lightroom

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT

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On The Fly



NEW RELEASE // ALLSEASONS

Allseasons - Kite Movie is showing the full spectrum of kitesurfing in terms of the styles and seasons in which it can be practiced. Watching the film, you move to breathtaking landscapes, meet the best kite riders, and experience the most complicated stunts and unrestricted freedom. All these elements makes this a documentary about kitesurfers and their lives inextricably linked with this sport.



The movie, in short, is an adventure, freedom, and connection with nature. It is a tribute to all those who practice kitesurfing in harmony with nature and the celebration of this sport not only as recreation but also as a lifestyle full of passion and humility.

The film is a passion project by Dariusz Kabsch that has been three years in the making. Watch the preview here, and see the whole movie on demand, available on Apple TV!



PHOTOS MICHIEL POL



On The Fly

UP & COMING // MERIJN POL

This lucky youngster was the winner of a limited edition Lieuwe Oceana board, and it might just take him to the moon! We caught up with up and comer Merijn Pol to see how his kitesurf journey is going so far...

My name is Merijn Pol. I am 14 years old now and I live in The Netherlands. I picked up kitesurfing in 2020. Before that I was playing with a kite on the beach and sometimes on a summer day my dad took me and my brother to the beach. I got really hooked to kitesurfing in October 2021 when I made my first jump. I try to kite as often as possible. Last Christmas it was -2°C and we still went out! A few days later we had to break the ice to get to the water!

In the first 6 months of 2022, I've had more than 50 sessions. Most of the time I go with my dad, my brother, my kite friend Orlando Mulder, and some friends of my dad. We visit different spots depending on the wind and crowd. In June this year I had my first session at sea in wind blowing 35 knots. Last week, I broke my personal Woo record and jumped 9,3 metres!

Last month, I got very lucky with an online contest and won a very special edition Lieuwe Oceana. It has a unique print designed by the crew from Space X kitesurfing. On the back of the board a deep sea diver touches hands with an astronaut. It reminds me of the painting from Michelangelo called 'The Creation of Adam' - and the colours are great!

It was a big surprise when Marijn, Olivier and Stijn from the crew came by to bring the board. My dad made pizzas and I had a great time with these pros. The board looks beautiful, and I've enjoyed the first few sessions on it! The size is 137x40, so I am sorted for the next few years!

I hope to be a professional kitesurfer one day and to compete in big air. Beside riding my twintip, I have started foiling and tried strapless kiting, which I am enjoying very much. Being outside on the water is just so much fun! I wish that every human on earth could experience that feeling at least once in their lifetime!

Hope to see you all on the water!

Aloha, Merijn Pol



On The Fly

NEW MOVES // BEN BEHOLZ

One of the most exciting aspects of our sport is that it is always evolving, especially with riders like Ben Beholz constantly thinking up new moves! Check out his Toeside Upwind 360 on a twintip!

Ben Beholz: What is it about? It's not a jibe and it's not a tack either. It feels different than a toeside tack and yet is somehow very similar. It is already a well-known mainstream trick on the hydrofoil, but a real challenge on a twintip.

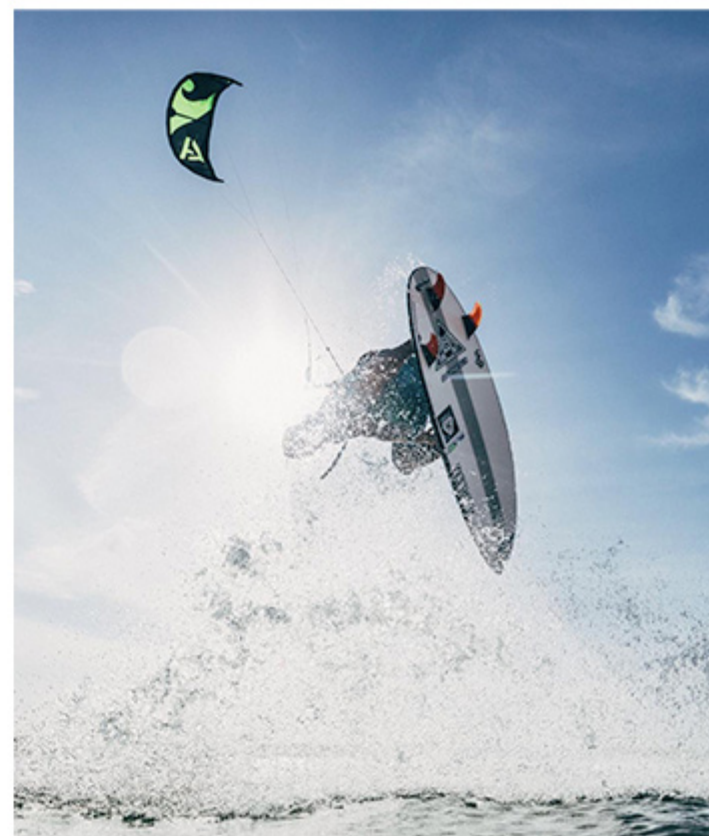
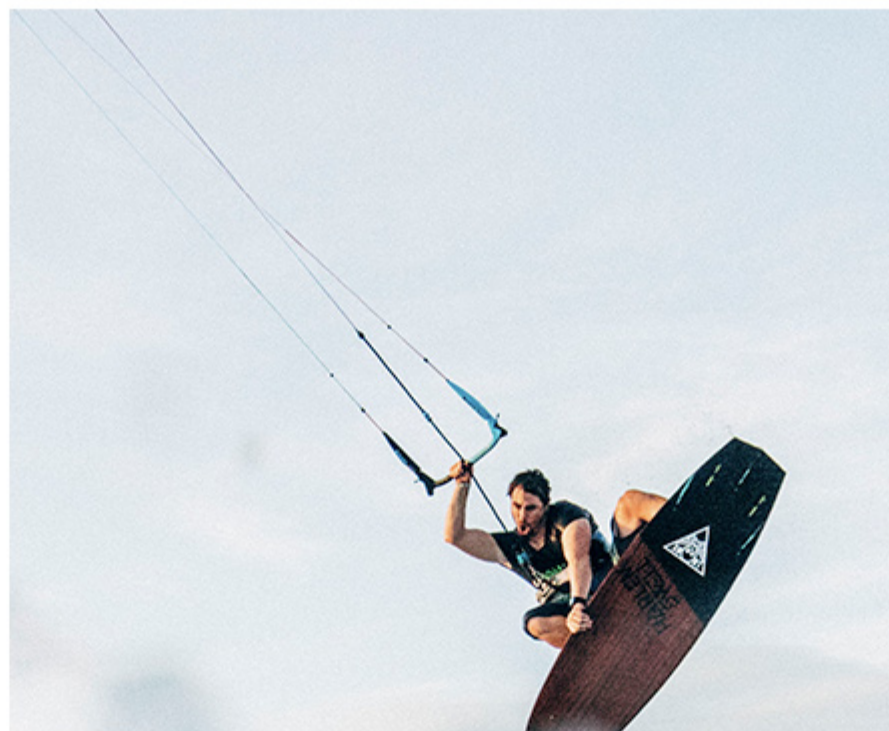
The crux of this trick lies in the timing of the kite control and the exact right amount of toeside edging while going through the first part of the 360. Once you got it, it will be a fun free ride skill in all conditions.



TRAVEL TALK // BRAZIL

The Brazilian coastline is a dream, offering the best conditions for the region's world famous downwinders. It's no wonder why people from all over the world travel to Brazil, in hopes of making their own memories in this kitesurf paradise. Yury Manzon of Kitesurf Brothers, who do downwind trips, shares why he thinks everyone should come to Brazil!

PHOTOS LUKAS STILLER



Yury Manzon: Here, we don't need even to look at the forecast. We know that it's windy from July till December! To be sure that you will kite every day, you basically need to have 3 kite sizes: 7, 9 and 12 metres. If you are in Cumbuco, you will probably use a 9m. But, as you go further towards Jericoacoara, you will find very strong winds that favour the 7m. The 12m is to be sure that you will be able to kite at every sunset and enjoy a beautiful golden hour on the water! If you are a kitesurfer and you want to come to Brazil, don't think twice! It is the perfect place for everyone, from beginner to advanced. The only goal here is to have fun and improve your skills!



PHOTOS ARLIN LADUE
WORDS SENSI GRAVES



On The Fly

CATCHING UP // SENSI GRAVES

I've been making a yearly migration out to North Carolina since 2009 (2020 was the only year in the past decade that I haven't made it!) and therefore, it feels much like coming home. The Outer Banks of North Carolina are known for the premier kiteboarding they offer—the ocean on one side of the island chain providing waves for slashing and the sound on the other side, offering up butter-smooth flat water. There's a reason it's a mecca for kiting in the States and that's why I consistently return.



I headed out to North Carolina to host a women's kiteboarding camp with my company, founded alongside pro kiter Colleen Carroll, Strut Kiteboarding. Our mission is to provide an empowering setting to promote skills and provide confidence-building tools for female kiteboarders of all ages and skill ranges.

My first week on the island was intense. Storms were wracking the eastern seaboard and the island flooded, shutting down the bridge and preventing anyone from getting on or off. Houses, previously enjoying an ocean-front vista, started falling into the ocean as high seas and strong waves lashed their foundations. The north eastern winds were pumping and we saw a slew of 40+ knot days. I was still able to get on the water and practiced big air kiteboarding on my 5meter Slingshot kite. It was fun, but I felt worked—that type of kiteboarding is exhausting! And on a 5meter? Yikes.

During the second week, the wind clocked back around to the south west and the weather started to warm. We went from wearing puffy jackets to bikinis—my kind of kiteboarding! The week of the women's camp had prime conditions and we spent a good amount of our time barefoot and outside, which in my opinion, is the best way to live. Nadja Bianchet and I taught the women how to bar juggle to untangle their lines, how to self-rescue if the wind dies and how to maintain a "just-show-up-and-try" attitude. Coaching can be exhausting as it requires a lot of energy output and long days in the sun, but it's a satisfying level of exhaustion. I don't always get this lucky, but Hatteras delivered yet again and I'll most certainly be back again next year.

SESSION REPORT // COHAN VAN DIJK

In Balneario, the famous big air spot of Tarifa, the wind can get very extreme some days. Offshore with 50 knots and sand blowing in your face; the only peaceful place is inside the car. Me and Blue Images saw one of these extreme days coming up on the forecast, so we went out for an early morning mission. We met up around 7:30am in Balneario to catch the best lighting and make sure there weren't any kites on the water.

WORDS COHAN VAN DIJK
PHOTOS BLUE IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY



Looking at the spot that morning gave me butterflies, just from the thought of being alone in an offshore spot. That means if anything goes wrong, you've got a free one-way ticket to Morocco. Blue Images launched my kite and then geared up himself. He took out his water housing and a wide angle lens for the first half hour so we could catch some close-up shots. It's not the most relaxing thing to do on a 7m kite with crazy gusts knocking you off axis, but we made it look like any normal day with blue water and sunny skies. After getting the shots we wanted on the wide angle lens, the photographer switched to a bigger lens and suggested I do some big air tricks. At that moment, the waves started coming in and the wind was getting wild. I was jumping way too high to get that sweet angle and line up perfectly for the camera, but all in all, it was a crazy survival day for us both!



On The Fly

DISCOVERING QATAR // SARAH LORD'S STORY

Kitesurfers are a brilliant bunch of people. Learning this sport takes passion, drive, and commitment – even a beginner kitesurfer has achieved something truly impressive! Imagine taking what is a hobby for most and taking it to the next level. That's what Sarah Lord has accomplished. She is not only a talented kitesurfer and instructor but one of the foremost faces in the development of kitesurfing in Qatar.

This up-and-coming kite destination, with sea, wind, and sun, offers some of the best kitesurfing conditions you can find. Sarah Lord grew up here, and she wants to share it with you.

Twenty years ago, when Lord first heard of the sport, kitesurfing was an obscure activity. Now, it's one of the fastest-growing sports in the world.

"The first time I rode on the board, I was hooked... It was exhilarating, riding on the board for the first time," says Lord. "It's a weird feeling because it's quite adrenaline-fuelled, but you're also at one with nature. It's a really nice combination of adrenaline and pure relaxation. You feel free. You forget about everything."

Want to read more of Sarah Lord's story? [Click here to see the full article on our website!](#)

WHAT'S NEW // HARLEM KITESURFING

We've noticed a fresh new look on the Harlem website, who have dropped the black and green colour combo in favour of a light and airy new design. Luckily, they haven't lost one ounce of their personality! We checked in with the Harlem family to find out what else is new...

PHOTO KITE UP SPOT WRZOSOWO



Victor Looijestijn: The focus with the new products was to improve the durability and performance even more to previous and existing products. As you can see on the new website, our tone of voice has a bit of dark humour, which we like to combine with our high quality products. We think the kitesurf scene is sometimes too serious and misses out on the fun parts!

We have a completely new look with the Harlem logo in the middle, and for the future, all kites will shift to this design, starting with the next versions of the Harlem Go and Harlem Light.

In the kite world, we have so many disciplines like foiling, wave riding, big air, freestyle, and all-around riders. Our intention is to deliver the best possible gear for any discipline.

The Harlem Ace is made for foiling in super light winds, and is extremely responsive on the highest performance level. That is combined with a bombproof construction and material.

With the Harlem Wave V3, we focused on making a great wave kite as light as possible, but still rigged enough in the frame to handle sessions in big swell. With the one strut design this was possible. Amazing drift and super fast turning.

The Harlem Strike is an all-new model in our range, and took us more than 3 years to perfect the model that will scare the big boys! It has super nice lift and massive hangtime, and it loops super steady. A worthy big air kite between all the competitors. We focused on making it as durable as possible with the materials and construction techniques.



On The Fly

WHAT'S NEW // HARLEM KITESURFING

The cherry on the top of the cake is the Harlem Lead Bar, an auto untwist bar that is tougher than our competitors, because we've used a stainless steel centerpiece. There's nothing worse than your breaking after less than a year of use, and that won't happen here. With 4 line lengths included and combined with a line splitter, this bar will fit literally every 4 line kite on the market.

We make great products that last a dog's life!

Click [here](#) to check out the new website, and see what's new in the lineup!

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On The Fly

TOP TIPS // ACTION CAM

Ever wondered how to nail the perfect shot on your action camera? Well, Matthias Larsen is a master of the craft, and he's here to share his top tips with you!

These days, action cameras like the GoPro have very high tech and are also pretty affordable. If you have one or are thinking of getting one, there are a lot of ways to get creative with it while kitesurfing.

As a sponsored kitesurfer, I started experimenting with GoPro cameras in 2010, and saw the potential of getting really creative shots without another person required. At the same time, it was a great way to showcase the equipment for your sponsors.

In the early days, I had the idea to use a clothes hanger to mount the camera in the kite lines to avoid it twisting, turning, or shaking too much. At that time, there were no mounts for kite lines, and no stabilisation feature inside the cameras. It's a bit easier with the modern technology, and here's some tips to get you started!

1. Mouth mount: The GoPro mouth mount is always the best to keep the camera with you while you are riding... you can put it inside your wetsuit up at your neck between shots. Using the mouth mount is quite a nice way to catch the action close up and really get the feeling that you are right in the action. It's important to put the setting on superview or wide angle and use a mount that is comfortable in your teeth for long periods. Check out some different ones while you are in a surf shop or read reviews online. Some mouth mounts you actually hold with your teeth and the camera is positioned under your chin, which gives a nicer angle and the option to voice control your camera if it has that feature.

[CLICK OR TAP TEXT TO READ MORE](#)

Getting invited to step on board a sailing yacht with your kite gear to explore stunning spots around Sardinia sounds like a dream, doesn't it? Well, that dream became a reality for Eleveight rider Jan Burgdörfer. Read all about what life was like on this kite and sail adventure in this article!

SARDINIA FROM THE SEA



"Hey Jan, Sardinia is happening! You can book your flights now." This was the message I received from Philipp Mohr on the 24th of May. Philipp is Eleveight's area manager for the DACH region, which includes Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. When I saw that message pop up on my phone, I couldn't believe that the idea of doing a product shoot on a sailing yacht in Sardinia was about to become a reality.

A few weeks later, I arrived at the Costa Smeralda airport in Olbia, Sardinia. After waiting a bit, Philipp and Marc, whom I hadn't met in person before, came to pick me up. When I saw his cheeky grin and heard him use the word "geil" (a German word used to express that you're extremely hyped!) about ten times in the first minute of conversation, it was immediately apparent that Marc was as excited about this trip as I was. If I had to pump a kite every time he used the word "geil" throughout our journey, I guess none of you reading this article would ever have to pump a kite again! The trip was finally happening, and we were all hyped, despite a less-than-promising forecast.

Marc Rosendahl is the guy who had the idea to bring kites out to the sea and away from the overcrowded beaches, combining the complementary sports of sailing and kiting. In February, he sold his charter company to focus entirely on his new project, Kite2Sail. For the inaugural trip, we, the Eleveight team, three journalists and some friends of Marc, were the lucky ones to be invited to test the concept of Kite2Sail and to shoot our new product range. His positive attitude accompanied us throughout the whole trip.

" I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THE IDEA OF DOING A PRODUCT SHOOT ON A SAILING YACHT IN SARDINIA WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A REALITY. "





**“ WE DIDN'T WASTE A MOMENT OF WIND AND
PILED INTO THE MOTORBOAT TO SCORE OUR
FIRST SESSION. ”**

Day One, the 8th of June, began with all of the stuff we had to do before we could set sail. There was a lot of gear to pack onto the yacht, with a load of Eleveight kite, foil, and wing kit. Afterwards, we decided to take his motorboat for a spin to explore the area and look at potential shooting locations.

Even though this was the plan, we were quickly distracted by all the enormous mega yachts floating around in the beautiful bays of the Costa Smeralda. Lucky us that Andreas Fritsch was with us. He is an experienced sailor and journalist working for the Yacht Magazine in Germany, and he showed us around and told us interesting facts about the yachts we were passing.

Day Two brought a light breeze that cooled down the hot air in the Marina Dell'Isola,

the base harbour of Kite2Sail and the starting point of our yacht trip. We didn't waste a moment of wind and piled into the motorboat to score our first session. With 6 to 9 knot winds, we launched the 12m Eleveight RS+ from the boat. Sören got lucky and caught a gust immediately, so he could get on the foil instantly despite using a bar with only 15m lines. Sören Cordes, aka the Content-King, was the other team rider on this shoot. You need to get very lucky to see him without a camera in his hands, mouth or lines, if not all simultaneously.



“ BEING ABLE TO GO WHEREVER THE WIND BLOWS WITH THESE SAILING BOATS PROVIDES A WHOLE NEW DIMENSION TO KITESURFING, ESPECIALLY FOILING. ”

Helen Fischer and Arne Schuber, the two passionate photographers on board, started to fill up their SD cards immediately. Unfortunately, the wind died after an hour, so we had to return to the harbour. We finished the day in the Il Segreto restaurant, where you have a stunning view of the beautiful bay.

Day Three was the day we finally set sail in our two yachts, one beautiful monohull sailing yacht and the Kite Voyager, a large and comfortable catamaran and the main boat used on Kite2Sail trips. After two hours at sea, we suddenly felt the wind pick up as we passed a huge rocky island. Keen to get on the water as soon as possible, we quickly set up the platforms at the back of the catamaran (where we can rig, launch, and park our gear) and got out on the water for a foiling session. Slicing through the Mediterranean Sea's deep blue water between the insanely high and rocky islands was amazing. Being able to go wherever the wind blows with these sailing boats provides a whole new dimension to kitesurfing, especially foiling.

As soon as I felt the wind picking up, I changed the foil for our light wind twin tip, the Process. Even though the wind was still relatively light, I managed to sneak in some jumps. Going downwind, we found a spot that immediately earned the moniker of "Little Cape Town". It was a beautiful bay in front of a huge rock, looking very similar to the famous Table Mountain. Checking the wind forecast while eating insanely good Italian pasta for dinner, prepared by Marc's wife Marcella, we were sure this spot would be the perfect shooting location for the next day.

Day Four started with a morning yoga session on the floating platforms behind the Kite Voyager, which turned out to be quite the core workout as they were rocking along with the motion of the sea.





" NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE, WE RAISED THE SAILS AND WENT TO THE MOST FAMOUS WIND AND KITESURF SPOT ON THE ISLAND. "

Warmed up, we pumped the kites and went for another foiling session. Half an hour later, the wind started to get stronger, so Sören, Philipp and I took out the Master, Master C+ and our Wingfoil equipment and went for some big air tricks at this breathtaking spot. Arne was shooting from the water and had an idea for a photo of me jumping with the Kite Voyager and the big rock as a backdrop. Because of the wind direction, I had to take off upwind of the catamaran, which turned out to be quite scary, but, in the end, I also wanted to get that shot, so I did what had to be done!

Since Little Cape Town was very close to our base marina, we decided to head back there for the night. The Day Five forecast wasn't looking too promising, so Marc, who knows the area very well, suggested we head to Porto Pollo. No sooner said than done, we raised the sails and went to the most famous wind and kitesurf spot on the island. We weren't expecting much, but we arrived with a light breeze blowing in the bay of Porto Pollo, perfect conditions for a foil session. Since the others were not as optimistic as I was, they decided to prepare some Aperol Spritz to start the evening early. After an hour of foiling, which ended up with quite a lot of swimming, I figured it would be more fun to join the party!

As the sun set, we went to the beach with our dinghy to have dinner at the beach bar. Somehow, shots of Mirto, a disgusting local herbal brandy, appeared on our table. Soon we were the only people left, so we started dancing on the beach. Marc's local manager, Alessandra, got the sense that we were hyped to go out partying and told us about a party happening at a bar only a hundred meters away.



“ I COULD NOT STOP SMILING BETWEEN MY TRICKS, WITH HELEN AND SÖREN THERE TO CAPTURE THAT EPIC SESSION. ”

We ordered one Negroni to go and walked over to join the fun. A few hours, some Negronis and one great party later, we finally made it back to the catamaran. Once back there, not everyone was ready to go to bed, and Arne and Sören went night wakeboarding right in front of Steve Johnson,

CEO of Starbucks, mega yacht. All in all, a night to remember.

Day Six was off to a relaxing start, with some light wind foil and wing sessions before we decided to explore the beautiful town of La Maddalena for the night. We looked at the wind forecast and could not believe our eyes; there was a perfect Scirocco (southeast wind) forecasted for Little Cape Town the next day. Day Seven started with a quick sail over to Little Cape Town, where we decided to shoot

directly from the beach, which allowed for perfect flat-water conditions and a steady 15 to 18 knots of wind. It was finally my time to take the new twin tip, the Commander AG Pro, designed for World Champion Arthur Guillebert, and the 14m RS out on the water for some proper wakestyle tricks. I could not stop smiling between my tricks, with Helen and Sören there to capture that epic session. These dreamy conditions with no other kiter at the spot amidst remarkable turquoise water were simply out of this world.

“ THE ONLY THING WE KNEW FOR SURE WAS THAT IT WOULD BE AN ADVENTURE, AND IT WAS! ”



Unfortunately, the bay soon started to get crowded with motorboats. Luckily, they were not afraid of me jumping around them but enjoyed the entertainment.

It was the perfect ending to this fantastic trip. None of us on board had been on a kite-sailing trip before, and we had no clue what to expect. The only thing we knew for sure was that it would be an adventure, and it was! In the end, we all agreed that this was a trip we would remember for a long time to come.

Often, the best trips seem to fly by, but this trip felt longer than its seven days. Not because it wasn't a great trip but because there were so many new impressions for each of us, and we took that time to savour every moment.

Grazie Mile to everyone on board, especially Marcella, Marc and Eleveight, for making this trip possible. It was fun in its purest form!

See where the wind blows next on Instagram with [@janburgdoerfer!](https://www.instagram.com/janburgdoerfer/)



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Hydrofoil big air is an emerging discipline that has gained momentum thanks to evolving technology, new foil competitions, and pioneers like the young and talented Jamie Overbeek. In this article, Jamie takes us on a walk through the world of big air foiling!

THE FUTURE OF FOILING

JAMIE OVERBEEK, CHARLES BRODEL, MAXIME CHABLOZ, ALEX SOTO
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS / GKA BIG AIR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS





“AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS AND NUMEROUS CRASHES, I SAW THE TIMING GET BETTER AND BETTER.”

When I first started kiting, I had no idea hydrofoiling existed; I suppose this technology was still in its infancy in the kiting world. Still, whether today or ten years ago, I can imagine there aren't too many six-year-olds that know what a hydrofoil is!

My first experiences with flying small kites were at the age of six; back then, neither myself nor my family could have predicted

where my kitesurfing journey would take me. But, when I started catching my first airs on the land board and twin tip, I knew that big air would become my passion.

Only a few years ago, I took my first foray into foiling. At age 12, while riding on the FLYSURFER team, they started a collaboration with Levitaz. Through them, I had the chance to ride my first hydrofoil setup. The possibility of staying out on the water for longer, in super light wind where the twin tip couldn't do the job, opened up a whole new world for me and a whole lot more hours on the water.

My first foil was more of a freeride setup, but that didn't stop me from being curious about how far I could take it. I had to know: Was jumping on a foil possible?! I found out fairly quickly that it was. The tricky part was a clean landing, which remains the main difference between big air on a twin tip and a foil. After several attempts and numerous crashes, I saw the timing get better and better. That's when big air on a hydrofoil was born for me.

The gear has changed quite a lot since then, as has the level of riding, personally and throughout the kitefoiling community. Now, I use a race mast and wing, and the adrenaline really kicks in when I'm rocketing through the water at high speed.



“ IN LIGHTER WINDS, THERE IS A WHOLE NEW SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITIES FOR EXTREME RIDING.”

I soon discovered that combining a high-performance wing capable of those high speeds with a high-aspect foil kite was the magical recipe for achieving insane heights in the lightest of wind.

You need some serious wind for big air on a twin tip; the fun only starts at around 30 knots! On the contrary, if you look at big air on a hydrofoil, things start firing up at about 15 knots and reach extreme levels at 25 knots. In lighter winds, there is a whole new spectrum of possibilities for extreme riding. The question is, of course, if the kite industry and community will embrace this, getting more riders involved and adding this discipline as a competition format, where hydrofoil big air events are run alongside existing twin tip big air events.

For many athletes in the hydrofoil discipline, racing is the top priority, especially with the opportunity to compete in the Olympics in Paris 2024. A few years ago, I was asked by my sponsors to get into the racing discipline. I have so much respect for the racing athletes, but I knew it wasn't for me. I wasn't prepared to put everything I love about kiteboarding on the line to focus on racing only. I get my kicks from height and extremity, which made the decision to stay on the big air track an easy one. Looking back, I am sure I've made the right decision, as the world of hydrofoil big air is starting to take off!

About 18 months ago, the first-ever hydrofoil mixed discipline event occurred in Brazil. While I wasn't present at that event, I saw what Charles Brodel was able to achieve on his foil, and it drove me to shift into second gear with my own riding.

“ THE EVENT WAS A BLAST, BUT IT ALSO MADE CLEAR HOW MUCH WE, AS KITERS, DEPEND ON THE RIGHT CONDITIONS. ”

It wasn't a pure big air event but marked the beginning of the rise of a new discipline. More recently, the GKA added a hydrofoil category to the Qatar Airways GKA Big Air World Championships in Tarifa. As soon as I heard this news, I knew it was time to step up my game and focus most of my training on hydrofoil big air.

Having a family who loves to kite as much as I do has been so important and allows me to travel and spend more time on the water. With Tarifa on our minds, we planned a big road trip from our home in the Netherlands down to the southern tip of Spain, me for the competition, and my brother, Sean, to meet and start working with his new crew at RRD. There was so much gear to bring, and with airlines under major strain, we decided to make the trip by car. The 2700 km drive alone was an adventure! But, after 30 hours, we made it to Balneario to experience the power of the Levante.

Seeing the international big air community come together and the level big air riding has reached on twin tip was insane. There has been an unbelievable amount of progression and innovation, so much that you don't even recognize the sport anymore, especially comparing what tricks we saw in that event to the tricks being landed as recently as one or two years ago.

The event was a blast, but it also made clear how much we, as kitesurfers, depend on the right conditions.





“ THAT WILL CERTAINLY BE A CHALLENGE AS YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPETING AGAINST THE BEST, AND THE BEST CONTINUE TO GET BETTER. ”

Mother nature is not as predictable as we would like it to be. As is often the case in kite competitions, it was a waiting game, but no matter what, when that call comes, you had better be ready!

Just being a part of an event like this was beyond expectation. Meeting, training, and battling riders at the top of their game was an unbelievable experience. I learned a lot

and got a taste of how competition riding feels. Even better, I achieved my goal of reaching the podium and personal highlights of landing my first ever doobie loop on a hydrofoil and scoring a jump height of 29.6 metres on the Surfr app.

When it was all said and done, it was an honour to stand in the 2nd place position with Charles Brodel in 1st and Maxime Chabloz in 3rd. These riders have taken hydrofoiling to new heights, and their innovative and versatile riding styles are ones I aspire to keep up with. Standing next to this calibre of athletes is the best feeling

you can get! With the right conditions and enough time to expand my skills, I'm confident I can one day reach the highest step on the podium! That will certainly be a challenge as you're always competing against the best, and the best continue to get better.

Big Air foiling is on the rise, and with the possibility of a hydrofoil big air tour in the cards, there is plenty more to come. As the sport and technology continue to grow, the height and extremity possible within it will too. You can expect to see tricks you've never seen before performed on a hydrofoil, at heights greater than 20 metres and with combinations that will blow you away! For now, I'll keep chasing the wind, and I can promise that you'll see me at the next hydrofoil big air event!

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 TITOUAN GALEA RIDES ONE EYE MAURITIUS

Titouan grew up watching his dad surf One-Eye, and for this issue's #1 Movie Night pick, we get to watch Titouan join the party and enjoy this beautiful left on his wing! Keep an eye out for flying fish in the waves!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 "STORMING" WITH JAMES CAREW - EPISODE 3

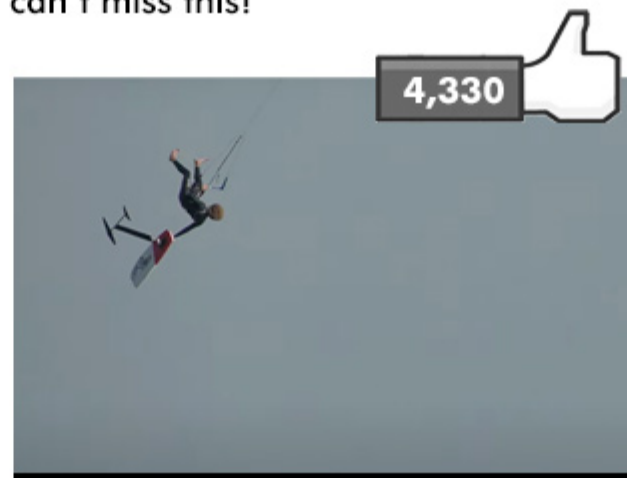
Landing on Movie Night for 2 issues in a row is James Carew. In episode #3, he has another crack at Nazare, claiming the most barrels he's ever had in a single session! Are you ready for this? Click here!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 HYDROFOILING, IF YOU THINK YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL, BEST THINK AGAIN.

Hydrofoiling is all about racing, cruising, and a bit of freeride discipline, right? WRONG! Watch Jamie Overbeek take his hydrofoil into the stratosphere – literally. You can't miss this!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 REAL LIFE FIRST TIME WING FOILING

What does learning to wing foil look like? Slingshot's Wake Brand Manager, Jeff McGee, gets given a wing foil set up and asked to figure it out! Check out this relatively unfiltered mashup of clips from his first winging attempt!



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RIDER VICTOR LOOIJESTIJN
PHOTO PATRICK VAN DER VEN (PICTUREPATJE)

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