

SPRING 2024

Bursting at the seams with exciting content, Issue 19 of Tonic Mag is a must-read! Explore the 'Origins of AFS' and delve into a mega interview with FLYSURFER's Maximilian Kühnhauser. Join Austin Kalama as he recounts his adventures on Hood River, the North crew share exciting tales from Patagonia, and meet Cabrinha's Up

& Coming Benjamin Castenskiold. Jesse Richman shares insights on his move to Ozone, while Alina Kornelli takes us on a road trip around Fuerteventura. Discover tech features on Naish's ADX Nvision, Armstrong Foils HA range, and Prolimit's Shield Free-X FTM wetsuit. With techniques, stories, & more, Issue 19 has arrived!

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 6'9 x 21" x 6.1 - 125L



VISION

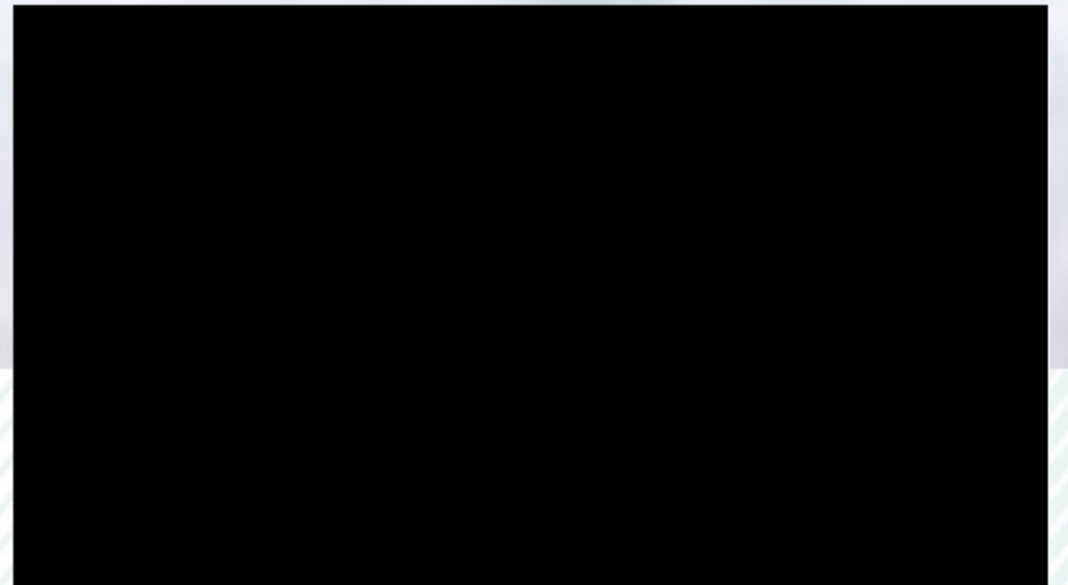
FREERIDE / FREESTYLE / LIGHTWIND (6 / 7 / 8)

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CABRINHA



Alby Rondina
 James Boulding



cabrinha.com

COMPETITION



UP & COMING -
BENJAMIN
CASTENSKIOLD



FLAT WATER
SUP STARTS



EDITORIAL



WHAT'S NEXT FOR
JESSE RICHMAN?



TECHNIQUE



RIDING THE
WAVES



A WINGFOILERS
GUIDE TO DAHAB



LIGHTROOM



ORIGINS OF
AFS FOILS



HOOKED ON
HOOD RIVER



TRIED & TESTED



WHERE NORTH
MEETS SOUTH



WATERWOMEN -
JESSICA GENT



READERS GALLERY



THE INTERVIEW -
MAXIMILIAN
KÜHNHAUSER



A SUMMER OF
WILD WEATHER



MOVIE NIGHT



XAVI CORR JOINS
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FOILS!



TECH FOCUS -
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PUBLISHED ON THE WEB BY

Next Element Ltd

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RIDER JULIEN FILLION
PHOTO FRANKIE BEE



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Small Wave / Freestyle
- 1250 cm²
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- 950 cm²
Freestyle / Wave / Speed
-
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- 260 cm²
-
- MASTS**
- 66 / 70 / 80 / 90 cm
-
- MAST BASE**
- 6mm Track System
-



XC

m²
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2.5
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3.0
—
3.5
—
4.0
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4.5
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5.0
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5.5
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6.0
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7.0

The XC not only turns playfully, it also provides instant forward drive thanks to the twist allowance in the center strut and tips. A perfect balance between drive and agility. The reactive relationship between stiffness and flex is forged from the ExoTex2 material in the leading edge and center strut. Our low-stretch and highly durable CoreTex2 ensures that the XC delivers smooth and linear power development. Optimal cloth tension and minimal drag helps generate maximum power for a quick take-off and then offers precise control in flight as you simply let your senses take control. Firm, ergonomic handles are extra wide for all riding styles and offer the most direct feel of power control in the palm of your hands.

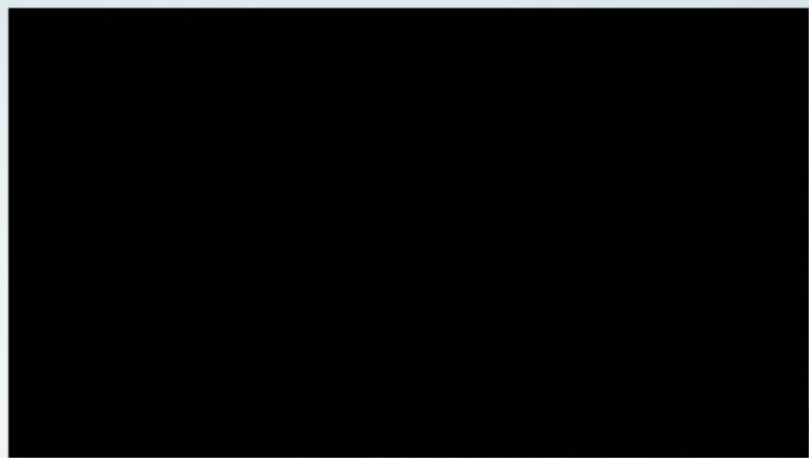


R O A M E R

The double concave bottom shape ensures quick take-offs and is also forgiving on touchdowns. High-volume concave rails are sharply designed for easy release and quickly distribute water away from the centre of the board for a confidence inspiring centre of gravity. A slightly angled deck and higher front foot position further optimises the influence you have with your foot pressures to help you plane faster. The stiff carbon sandwich construction provides a direct feel and long lasting fun even for the most ambitious riders.

- SIZES**
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Freestyle / Wave
- 4'11" / 70l
Freestyle / Wave
- 5'5" / 85l
Freestyle / Cruising
- 5'9" / 110l
Freestyle / Cruising
- 6'3" / 130l
Learning / Progression
-

Rider: Joel Dace / Production: Gaupernothing_elec



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ISSUE 19



Like many of the readers of this magazine, I've been caught by the downwind SUP foiling bug. I'm completely obsessed. If the wind is blowing, it's now pretty rare that I pump my wing up; instead, I go looking for adventure on my SUP, and if the wind isn't playing ball, you can find me down the local marina practising my flat water paddle-ups.

I'm not alone in this quest for downwind greatness or just sheer fun; the discipline is booming, so I wanted to ponder why that is. What is all the fuss about?

For me, the allure of downwind SUP foiling lies in the journey and the physical and mental demands it

imposes. Unlike winging or kitesurfing, mastering the art of downwind demands a level of fitness and skill that pushes you to your limits. The delicate dance of balance, the precise control of the foil, and the strategic navigation of bumps require dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to improvement. The reward of a successful run is 100% worth the countless hours of failure and suffering.

Another thing that drew me to the discipline is the sense of adventure. Planning your route, getting the tides right, closely following the wind forecast, choosing the right foil, organising shuttles with your mates,

the list goes on... After all that planning, the wind could drop mid-run, and you find yourself paddling home. It's high risk and has you on the edge of your seat, or board, throughout!

The shuttles I mentioned above are all part of the fun, too; we've already discussed plenty of times in Tonic Mag about how friendly the foiling community is. With downwind foiling, you share your struggles and successes and, of course, banter on the journey home. It's also part of the learning journey: who had the best foil setup, how did you tune your gear, and did riding further out to sea equal better bumps? It's all progress.



Undeniably, another draw is to be part of a brand-new sport. Foilers across the world are pioneers in their own backyard. Claiming that you were the first to send your local downwind run is satisfying. And to be a part of a sport where equipment is progressing at such a rate is highly addictive; every marginal gain from a new tail or fine-tuning with a shim may lead to improvements in efficiency or speed. It certainly has people coming back for more time and time again.

I definitely won't have been the first to point out that downwind foiling offers endless, uncrowded waves, like literally endless! No more localism, waiting your turn, or missing the wave of the day. My last downwind run featured over an hour of foiling time, and a good third of that was in outstanding, steep rolling bumps. You could've put a hundred foilers out there with me without it changing my bump selection or route choice. It would probably have made it even better to share the stoke!

Many people will be drawn to the speed, and I don't mean speed with an engine; I mean the kind of speed you generate yourself with open ocean swell or bumps; it's exhilarating. I grew up sailing and was always locked in a quest to go just half a knot faster, up to 6 knots... If you'd told teenage Jack that one day he'd be doing 14 knots across the ocean with NO SAIL. You'd have blown his mind; it still does, to be fair. What goes hand in hand with that is that races are on the rise, all an opportunity to meet like-minded people and try your hand at some competition. You can't go wrong with that.

So, how do I sum this up? If you were on the fence about whether to go into downwinding, this should be your cue to do it. And if you're unsure, grab your wing or rock start into some downwind bumps. You won't regret it!

Until next time

Jack Galloway, Editor

RIDING THE WAVES

A WINGFOILING ODYSSEY IN FUERTEVENTURA

Hit the road with Alina Kornelli and Lukas Stiller as they share the challenges and triumphs of their week-long adventure as they navigate the Fuerteventura's fickle winter winds, seeking the perfect conditions for wingfoiling and capturing unforgettable moments amidst the island's unpredictable climate - Read 'Riding the Waves: A Wingfoiling Odyssey in Fuerteventura' exclusively in Tonic Mag!





“ WE ARE EAGER TO EXPERIENCE THE ISLAND'S LEGENDARY WINDS AND THE PROMISING WINTER WAVES. ”

Fuerteventura, the second largest island in the Canary Islands, is the ultimate haven for anyone seeking an adrenaline rush through any watersports activity. Fuerteventura itself alludes to the island's primary claim to fame - the strong winds that embrace its shores, making it an ideal location for activities like wingfoiling.

As I venture into this wind-swept paradise in mid-November, I am excited to meet my photographer and good friend, Lukas Stiller, at Fuerteventura Airport. We are eager to experience the island's legendary winds and the promising winter waves. While the prime wind season on Fuerteventura typically occurs during the summer, the swell appears more promising during the winter. The wind conditions of the past two weeks have been nothing short of impressive, with videos from local friends showcasing wingfoiling the massive swells along the north shore with wind speeds reaching up to 22 knots.

Arriving at Puerto del Rosario Airport in the late afternoon, we catch a glimpse of wingfoilers enjoying the nearby spot, "Puerto Lajas," from the plane. Although tempted to set up our gear at that spot on our way to the Airbnb up north, reality sets in as we complete our luggage and car preparations just as the sun dips below the horizon, reminding us of the shorter winter days!

Fuerteventura presents a paradox - a seemingly monotonous volcanic island with a dry landscape, yet it offers a diverse range of wingfoil spots and

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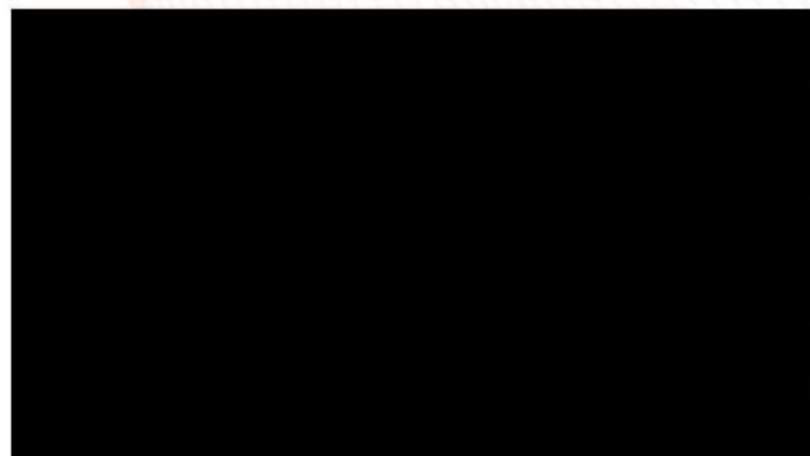
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“ IT'S CRUCIAL TO NOTE THAT THE LAGOON FILLS IN BASED ON THE MOON CYCLE, MAKING IT DEEP ENOUGH FOR JUST A FEW DAYS A MONTH. ”

beaches with varying terrains. It's essential to note that it takes a maximum of two hours to travel from the very North to the South by car and about 30 minutes to one hour from the West coast to the East.

There's a range of famous spots, starting from the northern town of "Corralejo," featuring a flat water winging spot at the city beach inside the bay, to the renowned "Flag Beach" in the northeast, known for its choppy open sea and ideal beginner-friendly conditions. Additionally, there are hidden gems like the rocky north shore near "Majanicho" (advanced spots) and the surfer's haven, "El Cotillo" Bay.

Heading south along the East Coast, "Puerto Lajas" near the airport and the iconic "Sotavento" lagoon offer contrasting experiences. However, it's crucial to note that the lagoon fills in based on the moon cycle, making it deep enough for just a few days a month.

While typically expecting northeast wind during the winter months, navigating the island's winds proves to be a puzzle, with varying directions, local thermals, and unpredictable changes from spot to spot. Wind conditions can differ dramatically within a short drive, emphasising the need to chase the wind in our cars with the gear ready to be utilised within 5 minutes after arrival.

Our week-long adventure begins with a missed afternoon session on arrival day, setting the stage for uncertainty. Initially, we face disappointment as forecasts from Windguru and Windfinder,







“CONSTANTLY CHECKING LIVE STATIONS ON WINDGURU, WE BECOME OBSESSED AND PASSIONATE ABOUT FINDING THE BEST WIND CONDITIONS.”

coupled with local insights, hint at a less-than-ideal week - the wind seems to have disappeared just as we arrived!

After six years of contests and photo shoots, encountering this setback leads to an exciting realisation. The absence of competitions and camera stress often provides the most epic

conditions and moments, leading to unforgettable sessions with friends. While we are here to capture and share these experiences in the media, we embrace the challenge of the Islas Canarias and aim to make the most out of every little opportunity.

Fuerteventura's webcams and wind stations become vital resources, while locals sharing real-time spot details provide hope in challenging forecasts. Constantly checking live stations on Windguru, we become obsessed and passionate about finding the best wind conditions.

Choosing the opportune moment on a day with a good forecasted swell at the northern spot, "Majanicho," we aimed for epic wave-winging pictures. Lukas prepared his expensive camera with the matching water housing and donned his wetsuit, fins, and neon yellow helmet, venturing into the swell.

Meanwhile, I navigated the rocky reef barefoot during low tide, carrying my 5.0 wing and 45-litre wing foil board with an 850 front wing to the water's edge. Paddling out into the waves, I embraced the wind at about 8 knots!

While on the foil, I realised my dislike of using board leashes, a decision reconsidered in the breaking waves.



**“ ITS CLIMATE, FLIGHT DISTANCE,
WAVES, AND COMMUNITY OFFER AN
IDEAL ESCAPE FROM MID-EUROPEAN
WINTER ”**

As it was low tide, I would get washed into the reef after a crash. A new foil set added to the challenge as I adapted to its new feel with a guessed-right mast position. Despite the challenges, surviving the sets left us excited, with some great shots captured safely back at the rocky beach without a scratch on us or our equipment.

This day became the blueprint for further sessions during the week, where challenges tested my riding skills and Lukas's photography finesse.

Fuerteventura in winter is an unpredictable companion - its climate, flight distance, waves, and community offer an ideal escape from mid-European winter, provided the wind favours your adventure. Despite this, my sights are set on a return during the summer months, anticipating better wind conditions for another chapter in our Fuerteventura wingfoiling saga, hoping then for the opposite - a swell in summer with a higher chance of windy days!

THE ORIGINS OF AFS

Join us on a journey down memory lane as Paul Wakelin uncovers the origins of AFS, a brand deeply rooted in expertise, excellence, and a relentless pursuit of pushing boundaries. Read 'The Origins of AFS' exclusively in Tonic Mag!



WORDS PAUL WAKELIN PHOTOS AFS FOILS

PHOTO CHIPRI COURDE



“SEVERAL HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL NEW MODELS FOLLOWED, AND AHD WAS THE BRAND TO RIDE IF YOU WANTED TO GO FAST.”

To some, the brand AFS may seem relatively new; however, they are hugely popular in France with a quickly widening global reach. Little known is the team's knowledgeable experience and deep history within the watersports industry. AFS has its roots interlinked to the iconic Windsurf brand AHD,

founded in Australia in 1987; yep, you read that right, a long time before the first kitesurfers arrived, before SUP and way before wings and foils arrived. AHD quickly moved to the USA to continue its expansion on the renowned Columbia River Gorge; buckle in as we're about to take a trip down memory lane!

In 1990, Christophe Piaget acquired the AHD brand and established a production facility in Switzerland. Christophe and his team continue to manufacture AFS boards, to this very day, using all the know-how they

have developed over the last 30 or so years. Back in the 90s, AHD introduced the very first sandwich construction boards into production, with the flagship model being the dominant Eliminator, winning the World Championship in 1991 and the Europeans in '92. Several highly successful new models followed, and AHD was the brand to ride if you wanted to go fast.

In 1993, it was on the revolutionary AHD 288 that Sébastien Carle won the World Championship in Egypt before finishing second on the same production board at the World Cup in La Torche,



“ ALL THE PRO RIDERS HAD BEEN RIDING CUSTOM EQUIPMENT AT THE TOP LEVEL, BUT AHD BROUGHT THAT RACE-WINNING TECHNOLOGY RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE CONSUMER. ”

showcasing the effectiveness of the new production boards against the world's top, custom prototypes! Previously, all the pro riders had been riding custom equipment at the top level, but AHD brought that race-winning technology right into the hands of the consumer.

In 1996, the Breton duo of Patrice Belbeoch and now AHD and AFS shaping legend Jean-Marie Guiriec joined the team. Success followed quickly, coinciding with a new world title and Patrice's first wave title in the World Cup, becoming the first Frenchman to achieve this. The following year, 1997, marked the beginning of AHD's total dominance in the industry, revolutionising the windsurfing scene with shorter and wider boards, including the innovative 310 race model.

French Champion Antoine Albeau and Jean Bouldoire joined the team, adding shaping expertise. Bruno André, a competitive windsurfer and Waterman, also became part of AHD's R&D team and has since grown to become a Partner, continued R&D expert, AFS Brand Manager and coach.

AHD's focus on innovation during this time was reflected in their introduction of the compact "Diamond" race boards, freestyle boards, and Super-X "Maxxride" boards, the first of their kind in the industry. This commitment to innovation and developing disciplines continues to be the driving force behind AFS's creations today.



WORLD CHAMPION

SENSATION À LA TORCHE:
Sébastien Coria sur une AHD 268 de série surclasse le top 10 mondial et termine second, battu par Dusterbeck seulement.

Sébastien Coria et AHD viennent de remporter les derniers championnats du monde de production 1993 en Égypte. Ce titre confirme malin à une hélicoptère avion 1993. Champion de France face aux meilleurs pilotes en foil, champion d'Europe en juin, champion du Monde en septembre. Ces victoires, ajoutées au titre mondial déjà acquis en 91, consacrent les produits AHD comme meilleurs foilers du marché. En 94, AHD propose deux gammes: les RACING SERIES, radicales, rapides et sans concession, et les PERFORMANCE SERIES, techniquement évoluées.



The AHD NT, a groundbreaking hollow board technology, took centre stage in Formula racing. At the same time, the Maxxride claimed victory in freestyle events and helped Antoine Albeau secure his first world title. AHD riders consistently placed on podiums across the globe, earning recognition for their skill and dedication. The top-notch AHD boards drew the attention of the most talented riders, such as Antoine Albeau, Matt Pritchard, Julien Taboulet, Cyril Moussilmani, Web Pedrick, Jamie Hawkins, and Paula Daian, resulting in a winning partnership for all involved.

“AHD RIDERS CONSISTENTLY PLACED ON PODIUMS ACROSS THE GLOBE”

flowing lines flowing lines flowing lines flowing lines

TAO
SIZES: 2.5 / 3.0 / 3.5 / 4.0 / 4.5 / 5.2 / 6.2 / 7.0
WAVE, FREERIDE, FREESTYLE

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“ THE LAUNCH OF AHD'S SEAL IN 2006 MARKED A NEW ERA IN WAVE RIDING ”

In a small world, we eagerly anticipate our 2024 return to Jamie Hawkins' "The Beach" restaurant during the Tonic Demo Weekender in Littlehampton on June 29th and 30th! AHD relocated its production plant from Switzerland to Tunisia in 2002 and welcomed Pascal Gerber to further add to their shaping team in 2003; AHD continues to thrive. Brazilian rider Kauli Seadi became the face of the brand in 2003, and in 2005, he won the world wave title on his Kauli Pro Model.

The launch of AHD's Seal in 2006 marked a new era in wave riding and encouraged strapless riding, eventually leading to the Sealion family of boards, shapes that ultimately led to the first SUP foiling.

In 2007, Tridenn, a new company founded by Thierry Pen, Jean-Paul Riou, Pascal Gerber, and Bruno André, took over the AHD brand—the goal was to innovate in the forgotten 0-15 knot wind range.

Hydrofoiling has existed for decades, with the pioneering "sit down" foiling product 'Air Chair' gaining some popularity in 1990. This particular foil design required a boat to tow it, limiting its appeal and use; it was also a strange new sport in that you sat down in the chair with the foil rather than standing like a waterskier or wakeboarder.

Meanwhile, on Maui, Laird Hamilton and Dave Kalama, revered big-wave surfers and watermen, embarked on an ambitious venture in the late 1990s and early 2000s by attaching hydrofoils to surfboards to enhance speed and ensure smooth rides on massive waves.





“ THE QUEST FOR THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF LOW-SPEED TAKE-OFFS AND LIGHTWEIGHT GEAR SUITABLE FOR THE MASSES WAS WELL UNDERWAY. ”

However, their construction and design still necessitated a powered tow to achieve flight; looking back now with heavy foil and snowboard boots screwed to the board, they were arguably death machines, especially if you wiped out and got washed by a big wave.

This early foray into using foils for fun on the water, though, had started to open up the potential of the sport. However, due to the limitations of the equipment, the sport of foiling never really took off; excuse the pun. However, the quest for the perfect combination of low-speed take-offs and lightweight gear suitable for the masses was well underway.

Meanwhile, in Brittany, independent developments were also being made and in 2009, the AFS-1 wind foilboard and foil,

explicitly designed for foiling, hit the water. The high-tech carbon foil was a game-changer in recreational foil development due to its low weight, high-strength construction and efficiency.

The Paris Boat Show in 2009 saw the presentation of the AFS-1, the first carbon, production, wind foil board and foil combination; this was followed by the birth of the AFS brand. You can now see why the history lesson is important; for many wingfoilers, AFS is a relatively new brand on the market, but in reality, they were making production carbon hydrofoils in Brittany way back in 2009.



“ ITS DISTINCTIVE SHAPE, WHICH FEATURED A SCULPTED OPENING IN THE NOSE, ENABLES AIR TO FEED BENEATH THE HULL ”

The AFS-1 Board, 112-litre x 25.5 inches wide, powered by a 7m sail, unlocked the holy grail of early flight in the calmest conditions. Its distinctive shape, which featured a sculpted opening in the nose, enables air to feed beneath the hull, promoting early take-off, reducing drag, and maintaining the rail length required to glide effortlessly in light winds—very similar design considerations we are now being seen in the downwind boards coming to market today.

Development of the AFS-1 by AFS helped to create a growing following of passionate early adopters, resulting in Bruno making the first SUP surf foil flights in 2010 on a Sealion board with the AFS-1 carbon foil. Waves and paddle power replacing powered tow-ins. Advancements in design and materials, primarily carbon, facilitated complete autonomy for the AFS production facility in Brittany. The Sealion board, perfect for windsurfing, windfoil, and SUPfoil, proved popular in its ability to do it all. A new generation of multi-sport enthusiasts saw the potential of foiling.

The combined talents of the design and R&D team, alongside world-leading production, also resulted in the establishment of the NahSkwell SUP division. A brand anyone who was into paddle boarding in its heyday will remember. This division played a crucial role in the development of various foiling innovations, as well as the creation of exceptional SUP designs.

“ AFS ADVANCED, IN PARTICULAR, STANDS OUT AS THE RANGE OF CUTTING-EDGE DEVELOPMENTAL BOARD AND FOIL DESIGNS. ”

Additionally, AHD concentrated on producing an extensive range of value-for-money, versatile shapes with cutting-edge construction.

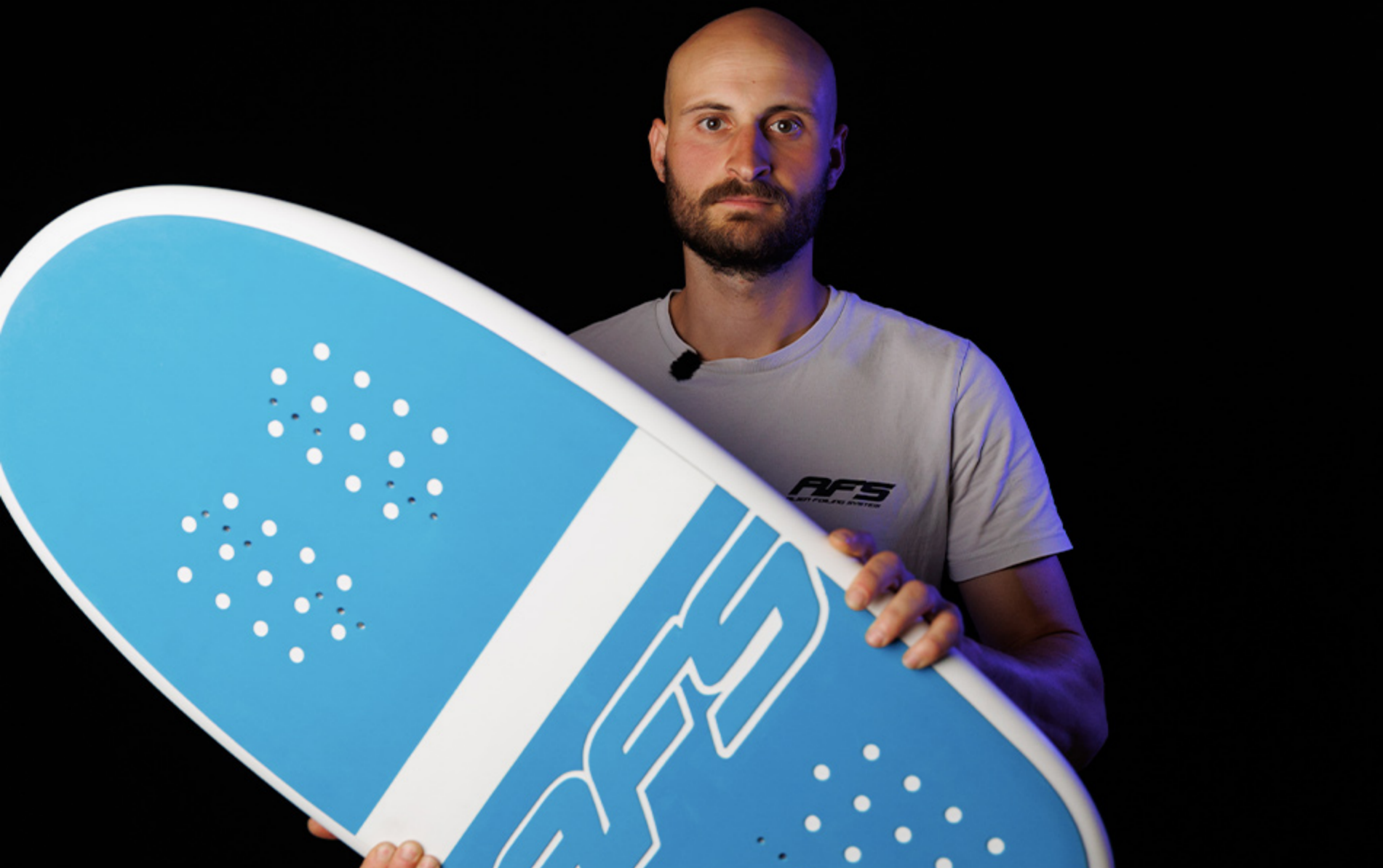
Over the last decade, Diony Guadagnino, a Venezuelan windsurfing athlete, has worked with AHD, capturing breathtaking images of different locations worldwide using his "DG Pro Model." Moreover, he has delivered exceptional performances on AHD slalom boards such as the SL1, SL2, and SL3, which are still highly efficient from generation to generation.

In the years between 2015 and 2018, foiling technologies like SUP foil, Windfoil, and Wingfoiling saw a huge increase in participation. As a result, Tanguy Le Bihan and Thierry Pen established Foil & Co, which later merged with Tridenn to become the current Foil & Co.

Today, Foil & Co. manufacture its AFS brand of innovative and immensely capable foil ranges comprising of boards, wings and 100% carbon foils for every level of participant, beginner to expert alike, with equal passion and know-how. AFS Advanced, in particular, stands out as the range of cutting-edge developmental board and foil designs.

Naval Architect, Foil and Co-President Tanguy Le Bihan leads an exceptional in-house design team. The AFS Team is also drawn to work collaboratively with some of the best industry sector designers worldwide. Such as multiple Moth World Champion foil designer Kevin Ellway with his high-aspect creations and Laurent Borgna with his signature SILK foils.





AFS comprises passionate, expert representatives in a wide range of foiling disciplines: freeride, race, freestyle, prone, SUP and downwind. A cohesive and exceptional family that values both fun and performance. Moreover, the factory, admin, marketing, and production teams are all equally driven.

The downwind charge is spearheaded by Richard Boudia, a true waterman and AFS International business manager. Chipri Courde is trail-blazing

within the world of prone foiling wave-riding abilities. Co-founder and R&D legend Bruno Andre coaches the AFS GWA podium riders Alan Fedit and Axel Gerard.

During the 2022 Weymouth Speed Week, Bruno himself broke the unofficial 500mtr world record with a speed of 30.05 knots, while Emeric Mouret, AFS head production engineer and tester, came in second place at 29.52 knots. In 2023, Emeric returned to

“ 2024 IS AN INCREDIBLY EXCITING TIME TO BE ON A FOIL WITH SO MUCH DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGING STYLES. ”

Weymouth Speed Week and took home the win by pushing the unofficial World record to 30.88 knots on the PURE 560, a production race foil with an AFS Board and wing. Four AFS riders, including the first female and third overall, used the same products and secured the top 10 places, validating AFS as the complete package. The foiling passion runs deep.

AFS takes great pride in producing all its carbon foils and advanced boards in Pencran, France. The long-standing expertise of Christophe Piaget's Tunisian production team continues to produce AFS, One Shot Sandwich (OSS) construction wing foil and SUP boards and AHD Windfoil and windsurf production.

The factory in Pencran facilitates every stage of every product, from design to prototyping to CNC mould creation and final product production. All ensure an unparalleled DNA of innovation in every product released with incredible responsiveness. The state-of-the-art production facility operates with eco-friendly, energy-efficient principles, which aligns with the company's core values.

Made in France and with a history that stretches back to 1987 and reaches the globe, AFS is here to stay. 2024 is an incredibly exciting time to be on a foil with so much development and emerging styles. We will continue to push to be at the forefront of it all and bring products to market that allow you to maximise the time and fun you have on the water...

WHERE NORTH MEETS SOUTH:

THE NORTH CREW'S EXPEDITION TO PATAGONIA

Bowien van der Linden embarks on a challenging adventure to Patagonia with the North team and shares exciting tales of snowfall, cosy BBQs, wingfoiling, kiteboarding, comforting cups of tea and picturesque views, pushing the boundaries of their comfort zone. The beauty of Patagonia and the bonding the crew experience are showcased in their incredible photos. Read 'Where North Meets South' exclusively in Tonic Mag!



" TALKING TO OUR LOCAL GUIDES,
WE SOON REALISED NATURE HAD
A SURPRISE IN STORE FOR US "

PHOTO LEO HOCHGRASSL



I consider myself a full-on summer baby, escaping the winters to the waters of Cape Town. So, making a venture into the wild beauty of Patagonia was a challenging choice for me. But I couldn't be fast enough to say yes when the opportunity arose to join the North team on an adventure to this untamed land. We set out on the trip with six of us: three kiteboarders, Nick Jacobsen, Graham Howes, and Jett Bradshaw, and three wingers, Fabian Muhmenthaler, Chucho Nonnot, and myself, Bowien van der Linden; an odd bunch, to say the least, but the perfect crew for what would become an epic journey.

We started the trip together in Buenos Aires, exploring the city, getting a first glance at the hospitality of the Argentinian people, and ending with a sunset party at Santa Tabla, one of the city's water sports spots. As dawn broke, we took our national flight to Bariloche, Patagonia. The last stretch of the flight revealed the initial breathtaking glimpses of Patagonia's beauty we would enjoy the coming week. The village has a ski-resort feel with many wooden lodges and cosy cabins in the woods. Talking to our local guides, we soon realised nature had a surprise in store for us; what should have been a spring trip turned out to be a never-ending winter this season. The mountaintops were glazed with an enchanting blanket of fresh snow, leading us (un)lucky travellers to a scene of frozen fingers amidst breathtaking scenery we would have otherwise missed.

We drove straight to a spot favoured by the locals; despite the light wind, the foilers hit the water for a 'warm-up session,' getting used to booties in straps and tingling fingers. Fortunately, every Argentinian carries around their mate a cup full of tea herbs with a straw and a large flask, so the tea can seemingly be endlessly refilled. This steamy drink awaited us at the beach after each session.





" I SET OUT ON MY 2.9, AND WE HAD A GREAT FREESTYLE SESSION ALTERNATING WITH RIDING THE BIG BUMPS DOWNWIND. "

The following day, while building a campfire by the waterfront with Kyle, my South African kite teammate and one of the videographers who joined us on the trip, our conversation delved into the purpose of our journey. He stated it perfectly: 'This trip is not for training, chasing the best conditions or spending the most time on the water. This trip is an experience, an adventure - nourishment for the soul.' As if the universe agreed, we spotted a boat carrying the rest of the team arriving at the dock, with Nick holding a massive trout.

That evening, we cooked the trout to perfection, ending another day in Patagonia family-style around a large dining table in our cabin.

The beach at Lagao Petito Moreno has an onshore wind blowing straight from the mountains. It can be chilly, but the views are some of the best we've ever seen. After learning from our previous session, we began the day with warm-up dancing on the back of the truck.

We switched locations pretty soon, and when

we arrived at Dina Haupi, we immediately saw the conditions. We were waiting for 25+ knots and some good wind bumps. I set out on my 2.9, and we had a great freestyle session alternating with riding the big bumps downwind. Bariloche is a perfect place to downwind on the windier days. What made the picture perfect was Jett, the short-line master of the team, throwing low-loops with the new Orbit-pro while Fabi was making stylish back loops on his Mode Pro—the crispy white gear matching perfectly with the snowy mountaintops in the background.



" ONCE WE WERE ALL ON THE WATER, THE KITERS ENJOYED THE SCENERY FROM A DIFFERENT VANTAGE POINT. "

Following this unforgettable day of riding, we embarked on an exhilarating downwinder from our cabin to the islands just in front of Bariloche, including Huemul Island. Setting off from the Peninsula where our cabin is located, we cruised downwind while the kiteriders went ahead with the boat, looking for a spot to launch their kite. During this session, you can witness the pros and cons of winging, including our ability to launch anywhere, even next to forests. However, once we were all on the water, the kiteriders enjoyed the scenery from a different vantage point. Their playground spans not only the water but also the land and the rocks, climbing and jumping over the islands, activities that, unfortunately, we will never be able to do! We ended our downwinder at the islands and returned to the cabin by boat. Still, it is worth mentioning that the downwinder could have easily ended at Bariloche town or even Dina Haupi, giving us the best wind swell.



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PROLIMIT



The upcoming adventure veered away from water sports, adding an exciting twist to our water-focused escapade. Even though the snowboarding and skiing season had passed, the fresh snowfall prompted Kite Patagonia's crew to open up Cerro Chapelco's slopes for us. This resort offers magnificent views of a vast lake, snowy mountains, and a volcano. We ascended the lower slopes with our trucks and parked them on the piste, where we found snow scooters higher up in the mountains waiting. As someone who loves the summer, I had never set foot on a snowy mountain or attempted snowboarding down one before.

Luckily, I had been to an indoor snowboarding hall the previous winter, and as we went down the mountain to the Kite Patagonia station, this was certainly noticeable. I was far behind the rest of the crew, spending more time in the snow than riding the snowboard in the first 15 minutes. Upon arriving at the station, the crew had prepared an Argentinian BBQ and some cold beverages for us, so we again enjoyed the Argentinian hospitality in the mountains. I was determined to learn and went up the slope time after time - even hiking up when our local guides enjoyed the braai instead of riding the scooter. I'm thrilled to say that I even got some airtime by the end of the day.

The last spot we visited was a special one - we arrived at a small island called Villa La Angostra, and the locals were already preparing an Argentinian BBQ for us again. We savoured their hospitality and began exploring the surroundings of the little island before getting into the water. Just before entering, I had to duck multiple times to avoid Nick flying into me - he couldn't resist repeatedly jumping over the island and our crew.

" THIS RESORT OFFERS MAGNIFICENT VIEWS OF A VAST LAKE, SNOWY MOUNTAINS, AND A VOLCANO. "



PHOTO KYLE CABANO

" PATAGONIA BECAME THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR AN ADVENTURE THAT WAS NOT JUST ABOUT WINGFOILING. "



Once again, we found ourselves in a spot with excellent wind conditions and now acclimated to the temperatures and full stomachs from warm food. We hit the waters and enjoyed our final session with no one else around, just like every other session we had experienced in this magical place. This location was the best spot and a short boat ride from the beach.

On our last evening, it was time for our final campfire; right by the waterside, the whole team gathered and discussed the highs and lows of the trip and how this special adventure had brought us together. Before embarking on this trip, the whole crew had minimal expectations. I was expecting something epic but had yet to learn in what way. I am still determining the dynamic between the kites and wingers. However, if I can speak on behalf of the entire team, the beauty of Patagonia has exceeded our expectations; it has been nothing short of an adventure with the most amazing team. With its stunning waters, pristine views, snowy mountains, and warm-hearted locals, Patagonia became the perfect backdrop for an adventure that was not just about wingfoiling. It was an adventure for the soul - filled with countless campfires, braais and gin-tonics on islands, snowboarding, empanadas, horse riding, fishing, and impromptu dances to keep ourselves warm.

Until we meet again, Argentina, Adiós for now, but the memories of Patagonia will remain etched in our hearts forever.

PHOTO KYLE CABANO





MAXIMILIAN KÜHNHAUSER

THE INTERVIEW

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER PHOTOS FLYSURFER

Dive into the dynamic wing and kite design world with our exciting interview with Maximilian Kühnhauser. Explore Maxi's journey as he shares his innovation-driven approach to product development. Get a glimpse of the upcoming releases from FLYSURFER and join us in anticipating the exciting future of wingfoiling!



“ ONCE I EXPERIENCED PERFECT WIND CONDITIONS DURING ONE SESSION, I WAS HOOKED AND KNEW WE HAD TO DEVELOP A SPECIAL WING ”

Hi, Maximilian; it's a pleasure to meet you! Tell us a little about yourself, where you grew up, and how you first got into watersports.

Hi Jen! It's a pleasure to meet you as well. I spent my childhood in the southeastern part of Bavaria, Germany, surrounded by the Alps. In 2005, my fascination with watersports began when I first started kitesurfing on Lake Lago di Resia in Italy.

When did you start wingfoiling, and what attracted you to it? Did you immediately fall in love with the sport, or did it take a while?

I took up wingfoiling at the beginning of 2020 at our home lake, Chiemsee. At first, I was hesitant about this new sport, but I soon realised how accessible it was. Our lake is surrounded by trees, making it difficult to find a convenient spot to enter the water. But I could launch from any location with the wing foil setup. Also, Lake Chiemsee is known for its gusty winds caused by the nearby mountains. Thankfully, this wasn't a problem anymore. My initial attempts at wingfoiling were in winds ranging from 8-11 knots, which was hard work to stay on the foil. But once I experienced perfect wind conditions during one session, I was hooked and knew we had to develop a special wing - the MOJO.

When did you first get into kite and wing design?

I began my career as a designer in February 2016. It was an exciting experience when I started with a trainer kite. I started with the STOKE, a new LEI Kite model,





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“ ITS EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE, EXTENSIVE WIND RANGE, AND OUTSTANDING STABILITY MAKE IT A FANTASTIC PACKAGE. ”

in the same year. In 2020, I ventured into wing design, which felt like pioneering work and was really cool.

Can you explain the key principles behind wing and kite design?

Don't overcomplicate things! Be innovative from the start of a project. Make sure the product is 100% tested before mass production.

How much time typically goes into your design process, from the initial concept to the final product?

The design process can be split into several different phases. This includes working on the files using computers, conducting tests, providing instructions for serial production, and preparing data and media. It is challenging to provide an exact time estimate for the design process as it heavily relies on the nature of the project. Factors such as whether it is a new project with no previous groundwork or if there is already an existing base and the project's complexity play a

crucial role. When you develop more high-performance products, you usually need more time.

Can you tell us about a design you are most proud of and why?

I feel super proud of the TAO wing as it is remarkably lightweight without relying on excessively costly materials, maintaining an affordable price point. Its exceptional performance, extensive wind range, and outstanding stability make it a fantastic package. For this reason, I am incredibly proud of the ERA LEI Kite. Not only is it our inaugural Big Air kite, but it has already established itself as a fiercely competitive model, consistently achieving top scores in the WOO ranking.



“ THIS PROGRAM GAVE ME THE COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO DESIGN CUTTING-EDGE SPORTS EQUIPMENT. ”

Have you ever faced a significant design challenge, and how did you overcome it?

Every project presents its challenges, which is good and makes the job interesting. One particular design challenge was creating a new Quick Release. Meeting all the requirements to ensure a safe, functional, and long-lasting QR was hard. Successfully overcoming such intricate design challenges demands focus and belief in one's abilities. Knowing how to handle difficult periods in difficult times helps when you do the job for a few years.

How did you get started in this industry, and what experiences have shaped your career?

My initial education was in carpentry, where I learned a solid foundation and practical understanding. I made my skis, snowboards, and longboards during this time, similar to kiteboards. Learning how to prepare materials properly, utilise the right tools, and establish efficient workflows proved invaluable for optimising our production process. After my carpentry education, I got a Master's in Sports Equipment Technology. This program gave me the comprehensive knowledge and skills to design cutting-edge sports equipment. In parallel to my studies, I worked as a kitesurfing and snowkite instructor, allowing me to gain valuable experience and insight into the world of kiteboarding; combining my academic background with hands-on experience as an instructor set a strong foundation for me to pursue a career as a kite designer.



GAME CHANGER

THE NEW HARLEM PACE WITH A PRO WELD FRAME

COMING IN 2024

With existing connections at Flysurfer, I always wanted to be part of this company. Luckily, I got part of the company quickly, and after two years of working as a workshop leader, the former LEI kite designer left, and I got the company's trust.

Oh wow, and when did you first join the FLYSURFER team?

I joined the FLYSURFER team in 2013.

Besides kite, wing and bar design, rumour has it that you enjoy woodwork and have done quite a bit of work on your home. Do you use any unconventional materials to work with?

That's true! I love crafting my own pieces, especially for my own home. I only use organic materials like wood, natural stone, metal, and ceramics.

“ I LOVE CRAFTING MY OWN PIECES, ESPECIALLY FOR MY OWN HOME ”



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“ IT'S SO MUCH FUN SEEING THE RESULT AT THE END AND TEACHING YOUR OWN KID HOW EVERYTHING IS WORKING. ”

I believe utilising genuine natural materials and creating everything to last a lifetime is incredibly sustainable. It takes a lot of time to do this, but at the same time, it's so much fun seeing the result at the end and teaching your own kid how everything is working.

Please tell us a little about your trip to South Africa. Are there any exciting products in the pipeline we should watch for?

Over the past two years, we have been testing our equipment primarily in Cape Town, which has proven to be the perfect base for us, thanks to the presence of Luke McGillewie, an exceptional rider and a valuable collaborator in our LEI kite designs. With Luke as a local and the nice wind conditions, Cape Town is just the perfect spot to test the equipment in all conditions in the best way. When the stuff survives in Cape Town, you know it's ready for the market.

Some exciting developments are happening at Flysurfer right now. I am thrilled to reveal that we will launch a Wing with durable handles, an innovative one-strut LEI Kite, several new bars, and an array of follow-up products.

Can you discuss the process of prototyping and testing in your design work?

At the start of the project, we held a kickoff meeting with the R&D team, the head of Flysurfer, and the product manager. We determined our objective and set a timeline. After this step, we engage in extensive



MAXIMILIAN KÜHNHAUSER & LUKE MCGILLEWIE

prototyping, which involves designing files on the computer, testing prototypes, and analysing each one. This cycle is repeated until we approach the production start date when we must finalise the product. After the product development cycle, coordination becomes crucial. This entails creating manufacturing instructions, overseeing production,

providing all files and technical data for marketing visualisation, ensuring timely delivery of finished products for video shooting, and conducting demonstrations and training sessions with sales representatives and internal staff. Finally, we celebrate the product launch with an exciting in-house launch party!



“THE UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS IN WING EFFICIENCY HOLD GREAT PROMISE AND HAVE ME EAGERLY ANTICIPATING WHAT LIES AHEAD.”

How do you see wingfoiling evolving in the next few years?

In my opinion, wingfoiling is set to experience exponential growth in terms of participation. I see big problems stemming from discounters and excessive manufacturing. Making products of good quality for long-term use and at an affordable price is something that will become more and more important. Flysurfer's commitment to crafting products of exceptional quality over two years aligns perfectly with my ethos. The upcoming improvements in wing efficiency hold great promise and have me eagerly anticipating what lies ahead.

If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring wingfoil and kite designers, what would it be?

Stay consistently super passionate and dedicated to what you want to do! It's not solely dependent on your education or background but your motivation and focus.

Thanks for your time, Maxi!

Thanks a lot for inviting me to this interview. It was a pleasure!



QUESTIONS JEN TYLER PHOTOS SAMUEL CARDENAS

XAVIER CORR JOINS ARMSTRONG FOILS!

In the exciting world of wingfoiling, changes and new ventures often send ripples throughout the industry. One such recent development has been the joining of Xavi Corr with the Armstrong Foils team! As Xavi gears up for this new phase, we got to sit down with him to discuss his favourite Armstrong Foils gear, his approach towards wingfoiling competitions and how this exciting new venture will pave the way for achieving his 2024 goals.



“ SUCCESS IN WINGFOILING DEMANDS A BLEND OF TECHNICAL SKILLS, PHYSICAL FITNESS, AND MENTAL AGILITY ”

Congratulations on joining the Armstrong Foils team, Xavi! How do you feel about this new opportunity?

Thank you so much! I am truly thrilled and honoured to be part of the Armstrong Foils team. I look forward to the challenges and growth that lie ahead, and I am excited to be part of a company that is at the forefront

part of a company that is at the forefront of innovation in the industry.

What specific features of Armstrong Foils' equipment attracted you to their brand?

I was particularly drawn to their MA range; the MA 625 front wing is my favourite. Its impeccable design, blending carbon materials and advanced hydrodynamics, delivers an ideal balance of speed, stability, and manoeuvrability. The MA 625's adaptability to different riding styles and conditions aligns perfectly with my style. Also, the new Performance masts were a

game-changer for me. The ultra stiffness allowed me to get more pop and control in the water.

Wingfoiling requires a combination of technical skills, physical fitness, and mental agility. How do you plan on preparing yourself for the upcoming competitions?

In preparing for the upcoming wingfoiling competitions, I've been going on the water at least four times a week, sometimes even more. Success in wingfoiling demands a blend of technical skills, physical fitness, and mental agility, and I strive for a balanced approach. Intensive training sessions are counterbalanced with recovery periods, ensuring my body remains in perfect condition.



THE WATERMAN SPIRIT IN A BOARD



WHITEBIRD

6'6 6'8



“ I WANT TO START LEVELLING UP MY WAVERIDING SKILLS, PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES, AND CATCHING EPIC WAVES ”

How do you think being part of a team like Armstrong Foils will impact your overall wingfoiling journey? Are there any specific areas or skills you hope to focus on improving with their support?

Being part of the Armstrong Foils team, I'm getting all the cool tips and tricks to keep my gear top-notch, teaching me how to become a better tester in testing new foils and wings and figuring out how those minor tweaks can change everything. It also taught me how to ride better in waves and downwind.

Looking ahead to 2024, what are your goals?

I'm looking forward to 2024! My main goal is to hit the podium by the end of the year in wingfoiling freestyle. I'm also super keen on exploring new places. I want to start levelling up my waveriding skills, pushing the boundaries, and catching epic waves.

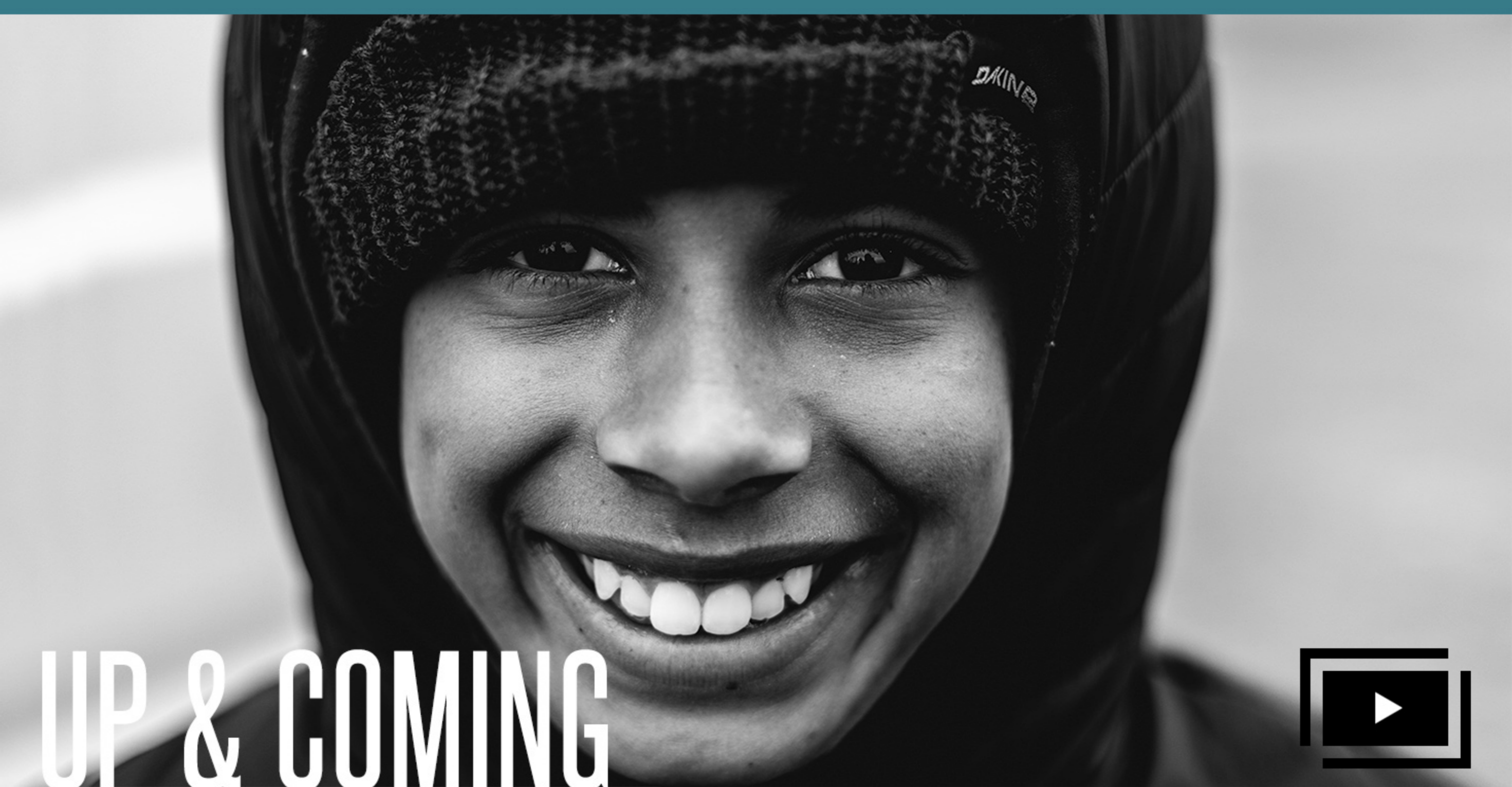
Lastly, is there anything else you want to share about this new chapter?

I can't wait to show you some new tricks and what I've been working on. I also can't wait to go to an exotic place with the Armstrong team and shoot some sick footage!



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UP & COMING

BENJAMIN CASTENSKIOLD

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER WORDS BENJAMIN CASTENSKIOLD AND JAMES BOULDING
PHOTOS JAMES BOULDING

Get ready to meet the talented and fearless Benjamin Castenskiold! This up-and-coming sensation has pushed boundaries from a young age, carving out a name for himself in the world of wingfoiling. With a deep-rooted love for water and a desire to ride alongside his father, Benji's passion and determination have propelled him to become a trailblazer, pointing the way to the future of winging. In an exclusive interview with Benjamin Castenskiold and Cabrinha Marketing Manager James Boulding, we dive into the story of their meeting, uncovering the exciting journey of this rising star.

“ BENJI HAS HAD HIS FIRST TASTE OF SUCCESS ON A PODIUM, AND HIS MOTIVATION TO RIDE AND PROGRESS IS EVIDENT, AS HE IS RARELY OUT OF THE WATER. ”

I first heard about Benji when he was around nine years old. Tyson Poor, Cabrinha's West Coast sales rep, introduced me to him and mentioned that he had been helping him with some small wings. It sounded like he had an adventurous life, spending his winters in his family's motorhome in La Ventana and going out on the water to ride with his Dad since he was nine years old! His life-winging has followed the sport's progression since its emergence around 2018/19.

With the way social media is nowadays, someone will post a trick, and it will be instantly shared globally, with kids like Benji watching it and potentially trying to replicate it within an hour. At just 12, he's already doing 1080 spins, various flip variations, and all the new school handle passes that have been emerging from kiteboarding. Innovation is fast-paced and can go in any direction. What's clear is that the young guns who have seemingly just picked up the sport are quickly becoming the ones driving it into the future. He had just competed in his first world tour competition. Benji has had his first taste of success on a podium, and his motivation to ride and progress is evident, as he is rarely out of the water.

Supported by wonderful parents and already a key member of Cabrinha's wing team, he has a solid foundation that can truly take him far towards a very successful watersports career. This year, Benji got the opportunity to feature in his first international photoshoot with Cabrinha, and he was eager to please,





“ I LIVE, BREATHE, AND DREAM ABOUT WINGFOILING, WHICH HAS BEEN A BIG PART OF MY LIFE SINCE THAT DAY. ”

quickly becoming comfortable working with photographers and videographers while at the same time learning the ins and outs of what's expected (and what's not) of a modern-day athlete in the sport.

In my experience, having great role models within a team plays a vital role in developing and keeping youngsters grounded. All of this was tested on a tiny Hebridean island off the coast of Scotland in the UK in autumn 2023. – James Boulding

Welcome, Benji! It's amazing to see such incredible skills in a 12-year-old, including 1080 spins, flip variations, and handle passes. Can you share with us who introduced you to the world of wingfoiling?

My dad introduced me to wingfoiling around three years ago. I tried it for the first time, and it was amazing! I instantly fell in love with it; it has been one of my greatest passions since then. I live, breathe, and dream about wingfoiling, which has been a big part of my life since that day.

Where are you from, and where did you grow up? Were watersports a family activity for you?

I am originally from Denmark, but I grew up in South America. Water sports have been a big part of my life since I was very young, and it has always been a family activity that we try to do together. We all enjoy being in the water; it has become a daily routine for us, seeking fun, health, and the sense of community it brings.



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SLINGWING V4

SLINGSHOT



“ LA VENTANA HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART AND HAS BECOME MY FAVOURITE WING AND KITE SPOT. ”

You spent a lot of time in La Ventana; can you tell us about that?

La Ventana holds a special place in my heart and has become my favourite wing and kite spot. I now spend the majority of my year there. La Ventana offers incredibly consistent wind conditions, making it a dream destination for wind sports.

When did Cabrinha first sponsor you, and how have they helped you throughout your wingfoiling journey?

Around two years back, Cabrinha started sponsoring me, and it's been a game-changer for my wingfoiling journey! Since then, my progression has skyrocketed. I've gone from mastering basic jumps to nailing 1080s and pulling off more technical inverters and handle pass tricks. I am lucky to have had Cabrinha's support right from the early stages of my career. They've backed me up and provided the gear, guidance, and opportunities.

Attending their dealer meetings was a great way for me to connect with the brand and get to know the people behind it. The experience gave me insights into their passion and vision and made me feel like a part of their incredible community.

Having the support of both my amazing family and a brand like Cabrinha has been absolutely essential for my progression. With Cabrinha and my family by my side, I'm excited to see what the future holds!

How has wingfoiling impacted your life so far? Do you see yourself becoming a professional rider?

Wingfoiling has already made a significant impact on my life. It has influenced my education, social circles,

“ WE SPENT A MEMORABLE WEEK ON THE ISLAND THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET. I DON'T KNOW WHAT A TYPICAL PHOTOSHOOT IS LIKE, BUT THIS ONE WAS PRETTY AMAZING. ”

and daily routines and allowed me to explore the world at a young age. Although unsure of what lies ahead, I am determined to become the world champion on the wing world tour and fully commit myself to this sport.

Tell us about the Cabrinha crew trip to Tiree! It seemed like an experience you won't forget anytime soon!

About three months ago, we received a call from the Cabrinha team manager, asking if we were up for a photo shoot on an island in the north of Scotland. Without hesitation, we agreed and began making travel arrangements... One week later, we arrived in Tiree, and let me tell you, it was freezing! We spent a memorable week on the island that I will never forget. I don't know what a typical photoshoot is like, but this one was pretty amazing. Sleep, eat, and foil - what more could you ask for?!

What is your go-to gear from Cabrinha's latest lineup?

My go-to setup is the Link 4'3 (37L) combined with the H Series 550 with a short fuse and a 180cm tail, Hollow 84cm mast, and my 3m Vision. I can pretty much ride the 3 in any condition, which helps me get super comfortable with one wing.





“ LA VENTANA HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART AND HAS BECOME MY FAVOURITE WING AND KITE SPOT. ”

Are there any particular tricks you're working on right now? What are the biggest struggles you're facing sticking it?

Right now, I am working on combo tricks. A combo is when you land a flip or spin, and right as you land, you transition into another trick. You see them often in windsurfing, and they have become a big part of wing

competitions. They are extremely difficult to land and execute properly, as you need perfect balance upon landing and the wing in the correct position to provide the necessary power for the second trick. Having a foil with just the right amount of lift is crucial.

How many hours a week do you spend on the water?

I am incredibly fortunate to spend winters in Baja, right in front of one of the main spots. Usually, I finish my schoolwork by noon. I grab some food and water for lunch, then I'm on the water for the rest of the afternoon.

Typically, this means that I spend around 4 to 5 hours doing kiting and winging. It's a perfect setup because that's when the wind is strongest!

You've been on the U18 podium for freestyle and free-fly slalom; which discipline do you prefer?

It was nice to get a podium in both disciplines in the youth championship this summer in La Palma. I'm currently more interested in freestyle, as I enjoy improving and learning new tricks while working on my style. However, it's also great to race with others as it can be incredibly fun and social. And, of course, I absolutely love going fast, too!





“ I WANT TO COMPETE AND WIN SOME SUMMER CONTESTS WHILE INSPIRING OTHER YOUNG KIDS TO GET OUT ON THE WATER AND HAVE FUN. ”

What’s it like competing at the GWA events at such a young age?

Competing in the GWA at such a young age is like a dream. It's hard to believe it's happening. Training on the water with all the big names in the winging community motivates me and shows me what I need to focus on to excel. I had lots to work on when I left and am committed to doing that to come back and compete for the podium in the following years.

Do you have a favourite professional wingfoiler who inspires you?

I don't have a specific wingfoiler that inspires me. I'm stoked to be out on the water having a great time. That is what it's all about in this sport. HAVE FUN!

We can't wait to see what the future holds for you! What exciting plans do you have for 2024?

For 2024, I hope to have as good of a year as the one that just passed. I want to compete and win some summer contests while inspiring other young kids to get out on the water and have fun. It's amazing to be out there pushing your limits and landing tricks after attempting them multiple times. It's similar to studying for an exam and getting straight A's - Live Free Ride Free!

RIDER XAVI CORR
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS



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SUPERSURFERS

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTOS FRANKIE BEES

Join Jen Tyler in welcoming Jesse Richman as he takes the helm of his newest journey with Ozone, marking the dawn of an exciting chapter of innovation and adventure. We've got it all, exclusively in Tonic Mag!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR JESSE RICHMAN?





" THEY HAVE SUCH A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE, AS EVERYONE CAN SEE WITH THEIR CLEAN, ELEGANT, AND PERFORMANCE-FOCUSED PRODUCTS. "

Hi Jesse - We're stoked to have you here! Congratulations on your recent move to Ozone; that's exciting! What were the key factors that led you to choose Ozone?

Thank you! Joining the Ozone Team has been a very exciting new chapter. I've been kiteboarding for over 20 years and winging since its inception. Throughout this time, I've gained a solid understanding of the industry and its key players. Ozone has always stood out to me; they have such a wealth of knowledge, as everyone can see with their

clean, elegant, and performance-focused products. I love their history and depth of knowledge, from the fact that they make the best paragliders in the world to their relentless drive with R&D, utilising advanced/unconventional tools like wind tunnels to test. Because they own their own factory that exclusively makes Ozone products, they get to control every part of the production to ensure the highest quality standards in the industry. However, the main aspect that drew me to the company was the

amazing people behind the brand; the entire Ozone team is made up of very humble, kind, and honest individuals.

You mentioned in the announcement that your expectations have been far surpassed after your first few sessions on the kites and wings. Can you share some specific aspects of Ozone's wings and foils that have impressed you the most so far?

Switching to Ozone was a decision based on the concept of a long-term partnership together.



"I'M EXCITED TO PLAY AROUND WITH THIS WING MORE AND SEE HOW HIGH IT CAN JUMP ON A NUKING DAY."

Both Ozone and I see a role for me that can evolve and grow with the brand to become a valuable company member; so far, it feels like a very good fit. That being said, I made the jump without trying the equipment because I believed in the people, aka, I had faith but needed to figure out what I would be working with regarding how the gear felt. And I had no idea that I would love this equipment so much. On the wing side, trying the Flux and the Fusion has been so much fun. The Flux is my go-to wing now as it's so stable and has such an amazing feel in my hands. I can make a smaller wing work well even when the wind gets light and it feels perfect in the waves. I have only tried the Fusion a few times, but its speed is a joke. I'm excited to play around with this wing more and see how high it can jump on a nuking day.

With your vast experience in the industry, what do you hope to bring to the table in your new full-time position at Ozone? Are there any projects you are excited to work on?

Ozone has amazing products, and Ozone customers know that; that's why Ozone has such a loyal community. Being a member of the Ozone team, I want to connect with Ozone riders worldwide, from the instructors to the local riders to customers who love the gear; I want to get to know them better to provide them with the best experience possible. I want to understand what they love, know what they want more of, and share some of my experience and knowledge to help them get even more out of their sessions. As professional athletes, we pump out content that inspires people worldwide. I love my job and network of adventure sports enthusiasts, but I want to do more than just put out inspiring content; I want to help people evolve.

I love the kiteboarding and wingfoiling community; these sports are filled with the most amazing people. I want to connect with riders worldwide to share some of my knowledge and work together to support this community.

How do you envision your partnership with Ozone contributing to the development and growth of wingfoiling as a sport?

Wingfoiling is growing whether I'm here or not, but it's very fun to be a member of this industry and act as an ambassador of the sport. I want to help this new generation of rock stars be all that they can be. Having been a young athlete in a relatively small sport, I know firsthand the tricky dance of standing up for yourself to get pretty compensated but not getting too much of an inflated self-image that you forget why you have been hired (to help a brand grow). I hope to help shepherd this next generation to grow the sport/support the community and, in turn, grow their ability to make a living in it. These wind ocean sports are so fun because of the sports themselves and how amazing the worldwide community is.

Ozone has a reputation for innovation and pushing the boundaries of the sport. Can you further share insights into the collaboration between you and the Ozone team to advance the technology and performance of their products?

I'm getting acquainted with the Ozone products, which are quite a few. And it's already been so fun to understand all the equipment's strengths and see where things can be improved.



"I WANT TO HELP THIS NEW GENERATION OF ROCK STARS BE ALL THAT THEY CAN BE."



" I WANT TO CONTINUE THIS DANCE OF LIVING LIFE AND DEVOTING A BIG PORTION OF MY TIME TO INNOVATE IN MY SPORTS."



The design team is so receptive and humble, and many exciting projects are in the works. I'm not going to say that I will re-design anything or help break down the technical science behind these amazing products, but I am excited to put all of their creations to the test in the most extreme of environments.

As an accomplished rider, what advice would you give to aspiring wingfoilers who want to progress in the sport?

Have Fun! To progress, you need to be safe and have fun; if you are not safe, you won't

be having fun for very long, and if you are not having fun, you won't be progressing very quickly. Be safe, have fun, and progress. Also, do your research and understand what you want to do. If you want to improve your skills, ask people, look things up online, remember there are no dumb questions, and don't be shy. If you aim to become the next world champion and make a living doing so, heed JFK's advice and ask not what your sponsor can do for you but what you can do for your sponsor.

Finally, We've got to ask! What's next for Jesse Richman? What do you hope to achieve both personally and as part of the Ozone team?

I'm just excited to be here; life is so beautiful. I want to continue this dance of living life and devoting a big portion of my time to innovate in my sports. I don't need to be the most extreme rider in the world, but I do want to try to be the rider having the most fun. Let's have a good time and share it with good people.

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Sensi Graves and Sarah Sadek tell us about Dahab – Egypt's ultimate wingfoiling destination! Tucked away on the eastern Sinai coast, this vibrant coastal village was once a hidden gem known only to some. Today, Dahab stands as a mecca for kiteboarders and wingfoilers from around the globe. Offering affordable accommodation, delicious food, breathtaking coral reefs, endless recreational activities and consistent wind conditions, Dahab calls for more than just a one-week getaway! Find out more in this mini-guide!

A WINGFOILERS GUIDE TO DAHAB



“THE BEST WINGFOIL OPTION IS THE BLUE LAGOON, A STUNNING TURQUOISE-BLUE INLET ABOUT 20 MINUTES BY BOAT NORTH OF DAHAB.”

The Red Sea has been a popular kitesurfing destination, following in the footsteps of windsurfers flocking to the area in the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Most recently, the small coastal fishing village of Dahab exploded in popularity among kiteboarders and wingfoilers alike and has become a hive for expats and those looking to live a quieter beach lifestyle.

Dahab offers a lot of things. It is cheap, small, and offers loads of different food options!

It has some of the best diving spots and coral reefs in the world and is home to a massive freediving community; there is rock climbing and bouldering, and, of course, there is almost year-round wind for Kitesurfing, Windsurfing, and Winging. The minimum recommended stay is one week, but many people get stuck and stay for months! Never get bored with all the activities Dahab has to offer.

The Eastern Sinai coastline, where Dahab is located, is windy due to the narrow channel that Saudi Arabia and the Sinai peninsula create, forcing a venturi effect as wind funnels down the corridor.

The best wingfoil option is the Blue Lagoon, a stunning turquoise-blue inlet about 20 minutes by boat north of Dahab. Most visitors camp or stay in huts or “camps” offered by local Bedouin tribes along the perimeter of the Blue Lagoon. This location offers prime flat water.



“ HIRE A BOAT TO FOLLOW YOU BACK, AND YOU’RE IN FOR SOME EPIC WINGFOILING CONDITIONS. ”

Leaving the blue lagoon, adventurous wingfoilers can ride along the coastline, playing in the rolling swell, arriving back in Dahab some 45-60 minutes later. Hire a boat to follow you back, and you’re in for some epic wingfoiling conditions.

The third main wingfoiling location is just south of Dahab, with a small sand strip jutting into the sea. The wind is off-shore, so be sure you know what you’re doing, but here, you’ll find both flat water and small waves breaking on the outside.

To summarise, you can find flat water lagoons or fun rolling swell downwinders in Dahab. The cool thing with wings is that you can launch right from town!

Accessing Dahab is as straightforward as it is

affordable. The closest airport to fly into is Sharm El Sheikh, just an hour from Dahab. From the airport, transfers to Dahab cost approximately 800-900 EGP (\$30). Everything is close by, especially if you rent a bike. You can take a pickup truck to get to the spots with the gear (the taxis are there). They take around 25-50 EGP per ride (less than 2\$)

Where to stay? Assalah is the most popular area amongst visitors, offering an Airbnb and an array of all-inclusive hotels such as the Swiss Inn, Dahab Lagoon Club & Resort, Safir Dahab Resort, Meridian.

“ DAHAB'S BLEND OF COASTAL CHARM AND EXCITING WIND SPORTS, WITH ITS EASE OF ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY, GUARANTEES AN UNMATCHED TRAVEL EXPERIENCE. ”

Blue Lagoon visitors have numerous camps at their disposal, including Abo Aid Surfcamp, El Omda Kitecamp, Shoky Kite Paradise, and Dahab Dream Kite.

With Dahab, you are not tied to specific seasons. Although the windy season ranges between March-June and mid-August to November, any month can be suitable. July to mid-August is less popular due to higher temperatures, making it advisable to find accommodation with air conditioning.

Dahab boasts a bustling food scene with abundant options for local and international dishes. Expect to spend 150-300 EGP (\$5-10) on a main dish, while local dishes such as Falafel will set you back even less. Don't miss out on experiencing fresh local produce at the market; just avoid salads and tap water.

Ready to taste the delights of Dahab? Popular breakfast places include Nounette, Breakfast Cafe, Tims Munch, Bayside, German Bakery, Al Ekhlās, Al Masryeen, and Yum Yum. Coffee and Cotton offer delightful beverages if you fancy a coffee break.

Dahab's blend of coastal charm and exciting wind sports, with its ease of access and affordability, guarantees an unmatched travel experience. From world-class diving to premier kiteboarding, it's time you flew into Dahab – Egypt's ultimate wingfoiling destination!





Austin Kalama just returned from a memorable Naish crew trip to Hood River, and in this feature, he gives us the lowdown! Bigger waves, longer hang time - he pushed his limits and had a blast! When the water was calm, he enjoyed fishing and joined the awesome community for downwind runs. He even showed off with a new wing and nailed a killer shoot the next day! Undoubtedly, Austin can't wait to return to Hood River and relive the excitement all over again! Read all about his trip right here.

HOOKED ON HOOD RIVER

WORDS AUSTIN KALAMA PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



**“ THE WING SCENE IS BIGGER THAN EVER;
IT’S BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR
WATER SPORTS IN THE GORGE. ”**

I started going to Hood River in the summer of 2018 to compete in the Gorge Paddle Challenge and experience the different conditions that the Gorge has to offer. I competed and got 3rd. I fell in love with the place and have visited every summer since. When I first started going, winging

even a sport yet. The summer of 2019 was the first year I started seeing winging products on the market at AWSI. I tested out the first wings they had to show off and picked it up pretty quickly. I knew this sport would have a big role in my life.

Seeing the evolution of the sport has been awesome; fast forward to 2023, and the wing scene is bigger than ever; it’s becoming one of the most popular water sports in the Gorge.

This year was my second trip as a part of the Naish team, and with their support, I could

stay longer to focus on my training and riding. I got to Hood River in mid-July when the strong winds and warm weather started to kick back in. I came here to get two new moves in the bag. I was working on my 720s and getting bigger, loftier frontflips. Maui is an amazing place for wave riding and downwinding, but it doesn’t compare to Hood River for freestyle riding, with a more dense scene and some of the top riders in the world being based there. The kickers are just so much bigger, and you get so much more hang time that you can learn bigger moves more easily. And you’re in a river and don’t have much to worry about besides the barges, which is pretty nice.



“ THEY HAVE ONE OF THE BEST DOWNWIND COMMUNITIES I’VE EVER SEEN. EVERYONE IS FRIENDLY AND INVITING ”

There were a few windless days on the river that initially felt lazy. Usually, I just hang out at the marina doing dock starts, flatwater starts, or just floating around on the river. Until a friend told me about fishing in the river. I have no idea why I didn’t think about that sooner. There’s insane small-mouth fishing, salmon fishing, and a huge sturgeon! So that took up most of my windless days or in-between sessions at the hatchery. I’d wing for a few hours, come in, eat a snack, catch a few smallmouth bass and then hop back out. The very long summer days are making all this possible. It is quite different from Maui, where our days are almost the same length all year round.

My first few weeks were all winging, but after a while, all the impacts of trying 720s and frontflips started to add up. The best thing about the hatchery is that you can do anything there. Show up, and there’s something you can do. On days my body felt tired from winging, I could do step-offs from the wall at the hatchery or meet the crew of downwinders constantly running up and down the river chasing bumps. They have one of the best downwind communities I’ve ever seen. Everyone is friendly and inviting and wants to get out on the water. Seeing how many foil setups you can fit into one Sprinter van is fun. I once went on a run with eight people and full downwind setups in a sprinter van, and it was like a twister trying to get it in there,

“ THAT WAS, FOR SURE, SOME OF THE STRONGEST WINDS I’VE EVER BEEN WINGING IN, AND IT WAS PRETTY INTENSE.”

sitting on the ground and getting poked on the side by a tail wing. But it's worth it when you get into the bumps. Amazingly, the downwind scene that already existed in downwind SUP paddling fully transferred to downwind foiling. Having my Naish Hover DW in my travel quiver certainly paid off. Between Maui and the Gorge, I can not imagine many places in the world that are as perfect to do this.

One day, the wind was gusting up to 80mph, and that had to have been the best downwind day of my life! The bumps were so big I was down winding on Naish Mach1 foils, which I usually use for freestyle foiling, so I wouldn't over foil. That was the fastest I've ever gone downwinding. My Strava app clocked me at 30 mph, going down one bump with swells close to 10 feet tall stretching halfway across the river. It looked like ground swells from the ocean. I ended up downwinding 48 miles that day with a few different crews going from Cherry Hill down the 3 miles. I've never had that much fun downwinding in my life!

The next day was our ADX N-vision shoot, and I was pretty nervous because of how windy it still was. All I had to ride was a 4-meter, but as soon as I hopped in the water, I felt locked in! The new ADX N-vision felt stiffer and more responsive and made it easier to control in strong winds. After a few lofty jumps, I went for a few flips that felt good. I landed a big front flip and went for some spins that felt good. That was, for sure, some of the strongest winds I've ever been winging in, and it was pretty intense.





“ THE TWO MOST FROTHED DOWNWINDERS WHO WERE ALWAYS SO STOKED TO SQUEEZE YOU IN THE VAN AND GO FOR ONE MORE RUN! ”

This year's trip to Hood River was, for sure, my best trip yet! Between all the amazing people I met and the unforgettable memories I made. Like the mayor of the hatch, Chris Anderson, showing up with a fresh watermelon and an electric attitude every day that gets you so stoked to ride and get in the water, or Trey and Walker Henderson, the two most frothed downwinders who were always so stoked to squeeze you in the van and go for one more run! Or spend the evening on the sand hook watching the sunset with a line in the water for sturgeon. Those memories in the gorge made me fall in love with the place and why I'll return for as long as possible!

PHOTO DAVE DOBRIJEVIC

WATERWOMEN

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER

JESSICA GENT

Meet waterwoman Jessica Gent! Jessica is an accomplished wingfoiler and water sports addict based on the South Coast of the UK. With a background in kiting and a passion for wave riding, Jessica has transitioned into wingfoiling, sharing her love for the sport. Alongside her husband Neal, a supportive local community and fantastic brands, Jessica continues to push her limits and inspire others in the world of wingfoiling. Dive into her exclusive interview with Jen Tyler right here.



“THE SOCIAL SIDE OF WINGING HAS ALSO GROWN MUCH FASTER AND PUTS FUN INTO MY SESSIONS.”

Hi Jess, it's great to have you here! We have loads to ask you, but let's start from the beginning! How did you first get into wingfoiling, and what drew you to the sport? You were kiting for a long time before that. Do you still kite?

I first got into wingfoiling when it first emerged; I was immediately drawn to its

accessibility and being able to get out in various states of tide. Before that, I had been kite foiling, but my progress could have been more impressive. Transitioning to winging opened up exciting opportunities for wave riding and made manoeuvres like tacking and jibing easier. The social side of winging has also grown much faster and puts fun into my sessions. Getting out with my mates and husband Neal and being able to ride together is what makes this sport special. Kiting has been a longstanding passion for

me, and I kitesurf regularly during trips to the Caribbean and on the south coast of the UK. When the conditions are right, like with favourable cross-shore winds and waves over shoulder high, there's nothing quite like a kite session! In the past, anything over 30 knots meant packing away the wing for a kite. However, with the introduction of smaller wings and building my confidence in stronger winds, my decisions now revolve more around the waves rather than wind strength, giving me more buzz and time out on the ocean.



PHOTO HELEN ZERVAS

“ WINGFOILING FEELS DIFFERENT. IT'S ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO START FOILING. ”

What are some advantages and challenges of wingfoiling or foiling compared to other watersports?

Wingfoiling feels more accessible and easier to get up and going, especially for those who haven't tried it before.

Even if you have some experience with other water sports, wingfoiling feels different. It's one of the easiest ways to start foiling. Some fantastic communities are emerging around wingfoiling, including mixed-gender groups and women's base communities like our local wittering crew and She Flies. They recently organised an event at Hayling Island, which was a really fun experience and introduced new women to wingfoiling and those already doing it to each other.

Another advantage, particularly here on the south coast of the UK, is that we rarely have epic wave conditions. When we do, it elevates the sessions to a whole new level. But foiling and wingfoiling can be incredibly enjoyable even on smaller, bumpier days. One of the challenges of wingfoiling is the cost of equipment, which tends to be quite expensive. This can be a major hurdle for many individuals trying to get into the sport. Additionally, when you start, there is a fear factor, as it seems like a longer way to fall. However, this fear passes relatively quickly with the right equipment and practice! I've also ventured into downwind foiling, flat water paddle ups and prone foiling, which have proven to be real challenges.

“ IT GIVES YOU THAT GLIDING AND CARVING SENSATION, EVEN IN ONSHORE CONDITIONS. ”

Despite enjoying a longboard surf, the pop-up element of wave riding in prone is challenging, and the physical fitness required to flat water paddle up is intense. Those are some things I'm currently working on.

Compared to kiting, the equipment for wingfoiling is a bit more complex and cumbersome to put together and carry around. But it is still easier than windsurfing, and thankfully, it all fits easily in a mini! But what I love about wingfoiling is the sense of freedom & serenity, especially when riding waves. It gives you that gliding and carving sensation, even in onshore conditions.

As a talented wingfoiler, what are some of your favourite spots in the UK and around the world?

Thanks for calling me talented, thats really nice!

I live in Bracklesham Bay in the Witterings on the South Coast, and it's an incredible hub for water sports and a truly special place on our planet. Among the different water activities, wingfoiling has rapidly gained in popularity here. We're fortunate to be near Hayling Island and Pagham both offer extra excellent opportunities for flat sessions as well as long-wave rides when the conditions are right.

My absolute favourite second home, though, is Barbados. Whether you're into watersports or simply enjoying the beauty, there's something for everyone, including kiting, surfing,

PHOTO DAVE DOBRIJEVIC - SHE FLIES EVENT





“ ITS BOTTOM END AND OVERALL POWER CHARACTERISTICS ARE TOP-NOTCH ”

and all the foiling disciplines. You can make unforgettable memories by swimming with turtles, exploring the wonders of freediving and hiking, and there is a wonderful community of watersports enthusiasts to hang out with when there. I have also had the pleasure of visiting Viana De Costello in Portugal this year, and let me tell you,

it's an exceptional spot. With a fabulous activity-based hotel right on the waterfront, the whole experience was incredible. Even though many of my most loved locations cater to wave riders, there are also spots nearby where beginners can comfortably venture into calmer waters.

What role does Ozone play in your wingfoiling setup, and what is your go-to setup?

I use the Ozone Flux V1 wing, which is an exceptional setup. The stability it offers is

truly remarkable. A well-designed handle system, including a flag handle specifically for wave riding, provides great control and manoeuvrability. Its bottom end and overall power characteristics are top-notch, delivering an outstanding performance. Given my height and weight, I'm comfortable using this wing up to around five meters, which is usually the maximum size I prefer. My go-to is the 3.6 or 4.3, but I've also tried and loved the three-meter wing. Considering recent epic sessions in stormy conditions, I'm contemplating investing in the 2.4-meter wing for those windier days.



“ IT'S TRULY AWESOME TO WITNESS HER SHREDDING AND ALWAYS PROGRESSING IN FREESTYLE, WAVE RIDING, AND DOWNWIND FOILING. ”

I also want to mention other women associated with Ozone, such as Wren Dougherty, Stella Gro and Cynthia 'Sinbad' Brown. Cynthia, in particular, is an absolute inspiration for the Ozone team and everyone. As a woman in my 40s, it's truly awesome to witness her shredding and always progressing in freestyle, wave riding, and downwind foiling.

How did you become involved with Armstrong Foils, and what do you like most about their equipment?

I got involved with Armstrong Foils right from the beginning when they arrived in the UK. Neal connected directly with Armie and New Zealand back then, which enabled us to get our hands on their earliest kit. I've been incredibly impressed by their dedication to research and development, resulting in remarkable progress in shape, materials and design. My go-to choices are the medium-aspect front wings that, coupled with the excellent glide and flow tails, elevate the entire session. They provide a perfect balance of carving and gliding ability, giving you the natural feel you desire and allowing longer rides in smaller conditions. Moreover, you can confidently take on waves of various sizes with enough speed to keep up.

I ride the Wing FG 40 litre, which is fantastic for just enough volume in light winds while keeping a loose, responsive feel on the waves. Paired with the performance 795 mast A+ system, it truly enhances my overall performance on the water.

“ IT’S PERFECT TO LEARN TO PRONE AND IS A DREAM FOR A SUPER LIGHT WING SESSION ”

Typically, I opt for the surf 205 cm rear tail, but the glide tail offers something better for those smaller, less powered days. I’m currently transitioning to the 2nd iteration of the high-aspect wings, and I must say, they’re feeling pretty impressive so far.

I also have the downwind board, which, at 97 litres, has its challenges! Since I’m just starting and weighing in at around 57 kilos, navigating requires some skill! It’s perfect to learn to prone and is a dream for a super light wing session, but I hope to progress well on it standing up soon, or I may have to trade up in sizes!

What advice would you give beginner wingfoilers looking to progress in the sport, particularly regarding equipment selection?

Getting those first few lessons is worth considering unless you already have a strong background in water sports. It can make a real difference between giving up out of frustration or receiving those brilliantly timed hints and tips that quickly get you up and riding. From a safety perspective, it is essential to assess how easy it will be to get back upwind when heading out. Typically, you’ll start by heading downwind, so understanding the conditions allows you to plan accordingly. It also allows one to try out different equipment without making massive purchases immediately. Those smaller boards may feel a little unstable when starting, but you’ll likely want to downsize your board size as you progress.

PHOTO DAVE DOBRIJEVIC - SHE FLIES EVENT





“ FINDING THE RIGHT WEIGHT AND BALANCE FOR YOUR BOARD IS ESSENTIAL. ”

Going out alone can be great if you have a lot of self-motivation. But if you prefer the company of friends, I recommend exploring your local wingfoiling community. You'll often find supportive wingfoilers passionate about the sport in these communities. If you're looking for someone to foil with on the water in the south of the UK or even in beautiful Barbados, feel free to look me up

on Instagram. I'm always happy to have more people to go foiling with!

Choosing the right equipment is essential when it comes to wingfoiling! While older equipment may be more affordable, it's worth noting that modern equipment offers a smoother learning experience. Starting with a larger front wing, typically around 1850 or even bigger, allows for easier progression. However, some do begin with even larger wing sizes. Finding the right weight and balance for your board is essential.

Starting with a smaller board can initially be frustrating, but it depends on your style and resolve. If you persist with stubborn determination, you can learn on a smaller board, but bigger is easier to start.

Are there any particular achievements or milestones in wingfoiling or foiling that you still hope to accomplish?

Yes, there are some exciting milestones I still want to accomplish in wingfoiling and foiling. One of my goals is to master jumps in wingfoiling and start learning rotations.



PHOTO DAVE DOBRIJEVIC

“ ONE OF MY ULTIMATE GOALS IS TO OVERCOME MY FEAR OF VENTURING INTO THE DEEPER OPEN OCEAN. ”

Wave riding is truly my passion, and I constantly strive to enhance my carving skills. I'm also determined to build my confidence in taking on bigger waves and having longer downwind experiences. It's all about pushing myself and gradually building that confidence. I still have a long way to go regarding getting to my feet and putting what I can do on the wave in prone foiling, but I'm committed to the journey!

Discovering the world of downwind foiling and exploring flat water paddle-ups is a recent endeavour, and the possibilities are endless. Inspired by riders like Olivia Piana, I set my sights on joining some clinics and learning from the best. And, of course, one of my ultimate goals is to overcome my fear of venturing into the deeper open ocean. It's a challenge I'm determined to conquer!

What has been your experience as a female wingfoiler in a male-dominated sport, and have you encountered any challenges or opportunities?

Being a female wingfoiler when it first started was more unusual in a predominantly male-dominated sport. But the tides are changing! Locally, a thriving community of women is actively involved in wingfoiling and other water sports. We support and encourage one another in all aspects, whether it's those who are just starting or those of us looking to advance our skills.

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A SUMMER OF WILD WEATHER

RECALLING DECEMBER'S ROLLERCOASTER RIDE

WORDS DYLAN WICHMANN PHOTOS ZAC KRUYER

Dylan Wichmann shares last summer's fierce rollercoaster weather, from the relentless wild winds to the scorching heat that turned the outdoors into an unforgiving furnace. Dylan reflects on the lessons learned and the imperative to protect our planet. Read all about it exclusively in this mini Tonic Mag feature!



“ AS SOMEONE WHO LOVES BEING OUTDOORS,
I FELT BOTH EXCITED AND OVERWHELMED BY THE
CONSTANT CHANGES IN THE WEATHER. ”



Last summer, particularly December, brought some crazy weather I'll never forget. It was a season of extremes, with wind and heat dominating the scene. As someone who loves being outdoors, I felt both excited and overwhelmed by the constant changes in the weather.

First off, let's talk about the wind. It was wild! We were hit with strong gusts at 30 knots or more every day. The wind was always there, making everything feel wild and unpredictable. Whether I was out on the water or just walking around, the wind was a constant presence, sometimes thrilling, sometimes a bit scary.

But along with the wind came the heat. December was hot, like really hot. Temperatures soared above 30 degrees Celsius daily, turning the outdoors into an oven. It was relentless, making it challenging to stay cool and comfortable. Despite the heat, though, there was a certain beauty in how the sunlight danced off the shimmering landscape.

Unfortunately, strong winds and high temperatures also led to wildfires. These fires were devastating, destroying homes and natural habitats. What made it even worse was that many of these fires were started intentionally, which is just plain reckless and dangerous. Seeing the damage caused by these fires was heartbreaking, and it served as a reminder of how fragile our environment can be.

Despite the challenges, there were moments of resilience and hope. Communities came together to support each other, firefighters worked tirelessly to contain the blazes, and ordinary people stepped up to help in any way they could. It was inspiring to see people come together in the face of adversity, showing that there's still kindness and compassion even in tough times.

As December ended and the weather began to calm down, I couldn't help but feel a mix of relief and sadness. It had been a wild ride, with ups and downs, twists and turns. But through it all, I felt grateful for the experience, as challenging as it may have been. It reminded me of the power of nature and the importance of caring for our planet.



"IT WAS INSPIRING TO SEE PEOPLE COME TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, SHOWING THAT THERE'S STILL KINDNESS AND COMPASSION EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES."



QUESTIONS JEN TYLER
WORDS ARMIE ARMSTRONG

TECH FOCUS

THE NEW ARMSTRONG HA FRONT FOIL RANGE

Armie Armstrong delves deep into the latest HA range's evolutionary leaps. He talks us through the essence of foiling, the versatility of these foils, and the engineering precision that shapes their performance. From the thrill of seamless glides to the intricate details of carbon construction, Armie unravels the secrets behind these foils. Get ready to unveil the essence of HA foiling straight from the source!





“THE ESSENCE OF FOILING IS THAT SENSATION YOU GET WHEN IT ALL FEELS SEAMLESS AND ENDLESS, THE PURITY OF WHAT KEEPS US COMING BACK FOR MORE.”

Hi Armie, it's great to have you with us! We're stoked to test out the latest HA range for this issue. Can you explain the main features of the new Armstrong HA Front Foil Range and how it differs from the previous generation?

Thanks for asking me to be involved! So, the new high-aspect range fundamentally evolves the original HA's. Plenty of new ingredients are from planform, section and layup, but DNA is HA. The result means we have improved the foils' characteristics across the board. Lower stall speed, better glide and class-leading handling. They are far more forgiving and easily controllable across a wider speed range. The step from an MA to an HA is now a simple, easy progression; the previous HA required an advanced rider, whereas the new ones are intermediate/advanced.

Can you tell us about the 'Essence of Foiling' concept and how it originated? Who is the target user for the new HA Range?

The Essence of Foiling is that sensation you get when it all feels seamless and endless, the purity of what keeps us coming back for more. The so-called target market is vast but generally aimed at anyone who understands and wants performance, glide and handling. It depends on your discipline, but all intermediate and advanced foilers of all disciplines will enjoy them. The deep range of sizes means everyone can find the perfect size for their weight, ability, and discipline.



“THE HA’S CAN BE USED FOR ANYTHING; ONLY THE RIDER’S IMAGINATION IS THE LIMITATION!”

They are powerful and maintain excellent glide, so riding a smaller size is advantageous as you get better handling and turning.

How do these foils differ from other Armstrong foil ranges?

These have good glide pump-ability and smooth handling, so the new HAs are the go-to for connecting waves. We also have more sizes (7 total), and there is only a

100cm² difference between each one. Compared to the MA range, they have way more glide but don’t ventilate quite as seamlessly, and jamming a tight turn in the pocket with an MA is still one of my favourite things to do! 4. Is the HA range strictly for prone and surf foiling, or can it be used for downwinding? The HA’s can be used for anything; only the rider’s imagination is the limitation! We prone them, wing them, SUP them, and downwind them.

Can you talk us through the evolution of the section shape and the engineering process of the HA range?

We started talking with Chris Porter sometime in 2022 and 2023; we contracted him to do some specific foil section studies for a few foils. During the new HA foil range development, he became more involved. His section analysis proved key to unlocking the sheer freedom and fun an HA foil can deliver. We trialled several sections that showed promise. His preferred section, with some special magic sauce he had added, was a team rider favourite and the one we kept returning to as it had such epic stability across the range and was so easy to pump and control. This made for absolutely epic test sessions! We were having the best foil sessions of our lives on the prototypes. Such a great job - thanks, everyone!

“OSKAR, CASH AND JEREMY HAVE BEEN HEAVY ON THE TESTING BECAUSE THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT”

Which team riders were involved in the development process, and what was that like from your end?

We utilise all our key riders plus some other people we trust. Everyone has their feel and requirements with foiling, so getting a broad perspective of these feelings is good. Oskar, Cash and Jeremy have been heavy on the testing because they know exactly what they want; on top of that, they have excellent communication, so it's easy to understand their feedback.

Can you tell us more about the HA's carbon construction and why you mix intermediate and high-modulus carbon?

It's all about strength and weight. IM is stronger, but HM is stiffer. We are always trying to keep weight down while maintaining the right amount of strength and stiffness. We mix intermediate and high mod depending on the foil size for the ideal construction. The thinner sizes need to be stiffer than the thicker ones, so there is a range of fine-tuned layups across the sizes.

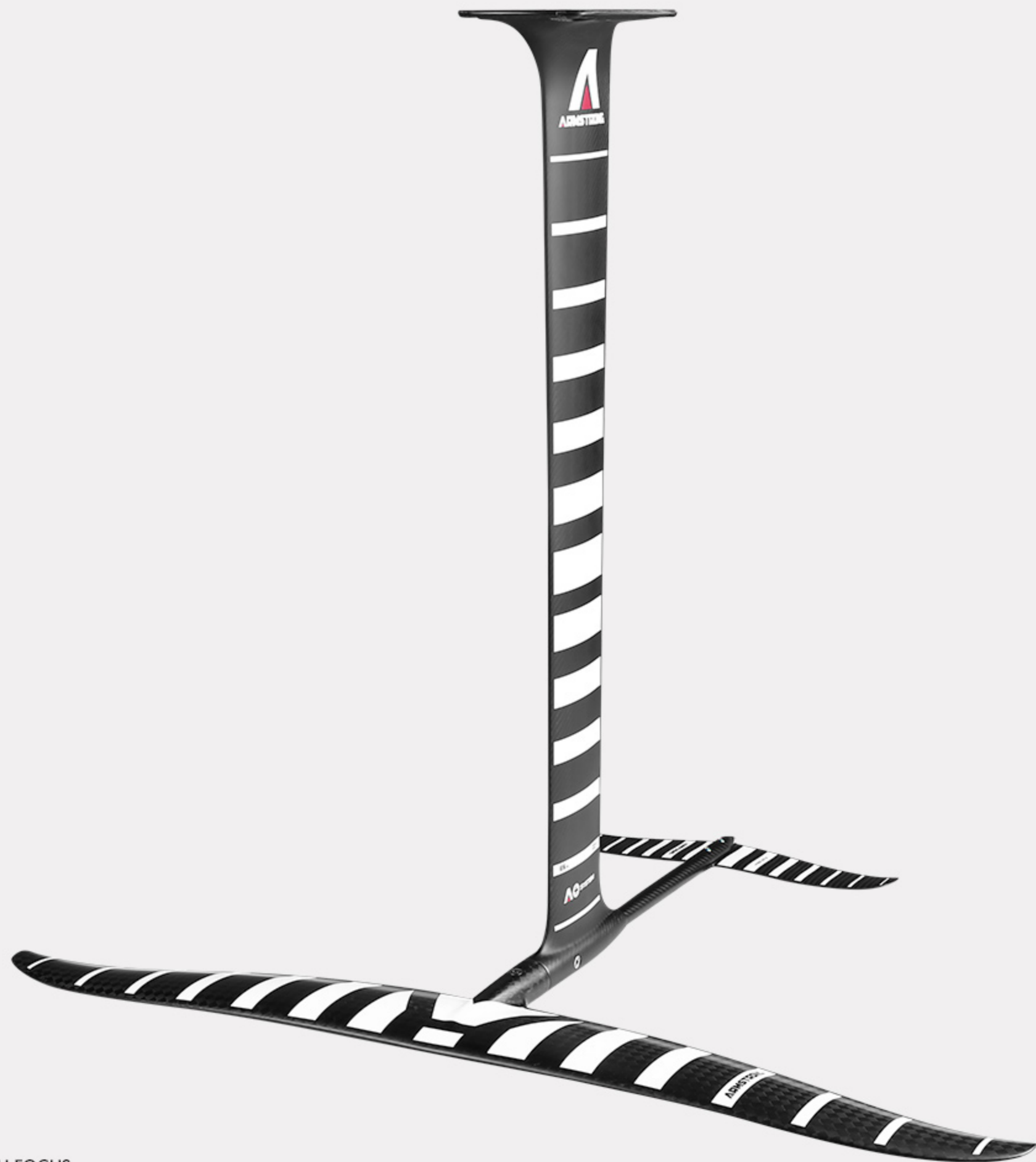
What sizes does the HA Range come in?

We start at 580 cm² and end at 1180 cm², going up in 100cm increments, so there are seven sizes.

Can riders try out the HA Range at any local store or event?

Oh yes! Most of our dealers have demo foils, and we encourage them to let riders test them.





“STICK ANY HA ON THE FRONT OF THAT, AND YOU GET AWESOME GLIDE, AMAZING HANDLING AND EXCELLENT PUMP RESPONSE.”

The feedback has included the most stoke I have seen in our foiling gear.

Thanks for your time, Armie!
Finally, is there a specific fuse & tail that you'd recommend people pair with the HAs?

Ahh! Going off what our riders all enjoy, it would be the TC60 fuselage and Speed 180 or Dart 140 stabilisers and the 795 or 865 Performance Mast. Stick any HA on the front of that, and you get awesome glide, amazing handling and excellent pump response. Simply standout foil sessions are the result. Seeing other people enjoy these as much as we have is so rewarding. Keep on ripping everyone, and I hope to catch you in the water this season!

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER
WORDS LINDA VAN LAKWIJK AND ALEX CRETIER
PHOTOS KYLE CABANO & ANDY TROY

TECH FOCUS

PROLIMIT SHIELD FREE-X FTM

Linda van Lakwijk and Alex Cretier talk us through Prolimit's Shield Free-X FTM wetsuit in this Tech Focus feature! Designed to conquer the world of foiling, wingsurfing, and other water sports, this wetsuit takes protection to the next level. Brace yourself for the strategically reinforced shield zones that work tirelessly to combat the impact forces from boards, foils, and masts. If you're looking for a foiling-specific wetsuit, this feature is your golden ticket!



“THESE ZONES ARE METICULOUSLY CRAFTED TO WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF BOARDS, FOILS AND MASTS.”

Please tell us a little about the Prolimit Shield Free-X and what watersport it is specifically designed for.

The Prolimit Shield wetsuit is specially designed for foiling, wingsurfing and other watersports that demand additional protection. The core strength of the Shield wetsuit lies in its strategically reinforced shield zones, placed to mitigate the impact forces generated by boards, foils and masts.

How does the Prolimit Shield Wetsuit offer enhanced protection against the impact of boards, foils and foil masts?

The Shield wetsuit incorporates several design elements to provide enhanced protection, such as strategically reinforced shield zones, extra comfort shoulder padding, armoured KED kneepads, a shielded shinbone area, reinforced underarms and elbows and a Rubberized protection shoulder patch.

Can you describe the reinforced shield zones on the Prolimit Shield Wetsuit?

The reinforced shield zones are strategically designed with specialised materials or padding to provide targeted protection against impacts in critical areas where foilers are most vulnerable. These zones are meticulously crafted to withstand the force of boards, foils and masts.

The reinforced shield zones are:

- **Shoulder Protection:** extra protection on the right shoulder, featuring Fluid neoprene on the outside and padding inside for impact absorption and comfort while carrying your foil.





“ THEY ACT AS A PROTECTIVE BARRIER, ABSORBING THE IMPACT FORCE DURING FALLS OR SITTING ON THE BOARD ”

- Underarm Protection: an outer protection layer has been integrated into the underarm area, ensuring durability without compromising mobility.
- KED Kneepad: the kneepad offers comprehensive coverage and impact resistance for the knees.
- Armoured Layer: an armoured layer shields the entire shinbone area against cuts and objects.

These reinforced shield zones are meticulously designed and strategically placed to provide extra protection where needed.

Can you tell us a little more about the purpose of the extra shoulder padding on the right shoulder of the wetsuit?

Absolutely! Most people carry their foil on their right shoulder. The padding helps cushion and absorb the force of the foil. It provides an extra layer of defence without compromising mobility. By reinforcing the shoulder area, the wetsuit gains increased durability in a critical region prone to wear and tear. This padding can help prolong the

wetsuit's lifespan by reducing the likelihood of damage from frequent impact. This is made possible in combination with the Free-X zipper construction.

How do the Armored KED kneepads protect the knees during watersport activities?

The Armored KED kneepads are engineered with extremely strong and durable materials against rubbing/wear in that area. They act as a protective barrier, absorbing the impact force during falls or sitting on the board. The kneepads offer protection and contribute to the wearer's comfort. The padding helps cushion the knees, reducing discomfort. Another additional feature is that the kneepad has stretch despite the construction, enhancing comfort.



Please tell us more about the armoured layer protecting the leg's shinbone.

Sure! This particular region, extending from the knee to the ankle, is prone to impact from mast and foils, reduces the risks of cuts and bruises, and avoids wear when sitting on your board.

What is the Free-X zipper closure, and how does it make access to the wetsuit easier?

The Free-X zipper closure operates as an asymmetrical front zip, allowing easy entry and exit from the wetsuit. With its asymmetrical design, it helps minimise water entry into the wetsuit. The diagonal opening of the zipper creates a secure seal when closed, reducing the chances of water seeping through compared to traditional straight zippers. Also, the Free-X construction makes

"PROLIMIT IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS SUPERIOR FIT AND COMFORT OF ITS SUITS."

reinforcing one side of the shoulder area possible without restricting the entry zone.

Can you tell us more about the Fluid neoprene on the outside and the memory padding on the inside of the wetsuit?

The Fluid neoprene layer protects the outside of the shoulder area against cuts. It spreads the load of the masts while carrying them on your shoulder in combination with the Memory padding placed internally underneath the fluid-rubberised area.

Can you share some insight on the production process and the materials used to make the Prolimit Shield Free-X?

Prolimit is well known for its superior fit and comfort of its suits. We know neoprene inside out, literally and combining materials, linings and technology created an even tougher wetsuit. It is a fact that foiling is evolving quickly, and the best protection is offered now with a Shield wetsuit to limit the impact of cuts and bruises due to contact with sharp foils and masts.

What sustainable initiatives does Prolimit incorporate into their production?

All Prolimit suits are made from the most sustainable materials, using water-based glues, limestone neoprene, recycled fabrics and linings. Every suit is carefully packaged in compostable packaging.

Great! Thank you so much for your time, Linda and Alex!

Thanks, Jen!

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER
WORDS MICHI SCHWEIGER AND ZDENEK MARYZKO

TECH FOCUS

VISION: THE NEXT STEP IN ADX WING DESIGN

Naish product designers Michi Schweiger and Zdenek Maryzko offer a comprehensive breakdown of the innovative features and technological advancements incorporated into Naish's latest ADX Wing design in this exclusive Tech Focus feature.





“WHAT YOU WILL FEEL WHILE RIDING IS A PHYSICALLY LIGHTER AND STIFFER WING.”

Can you tell us a little about Naish’s Wing-Surfer ADX Nvision and its key features?

The Naish ADX Nvision utilises an 82gsm Aluula throughout the leading edge and strut. It also features lighter-weight Composite handles, lightweight X-ply Scrim windows, a Dual luft panel, and a lighter-weight internal bladder in the leading edge and strut.

What you will feel while riding is a physically

lighter and stiffer wing. You will experience higher efficiency, better direct control, improved pumping efficiency, featherweight-style handling, and maximum top-end control. The larger the wing, the more benefits it will provide.

How does the Nvision differ from the original ADX version?

When comparing our standard ADX with the new ADX Nvision, it becomes apparent that their leading edge and strut construction are notably different. The standard ADX utilises a two-stage dacron composition, consisting

of a heavyweight dacron in the middle triangle and along the centre of the strut, while the rest of the strut and leading edge employ a lighter dacron. On the other hand, the ADX Nvision adopts 82gsm Aluula material for its entire leading edge and strut. This Aluula material not only has a significantly lower weight but also offers greater stiffness and can be inflated to higher psi than dacron material.

Furthermore, the ADX Nvision employs a unique canopy panel layout that effectively secures the shape in combination with Aluula.

Additionally, composite handles are featured in the ADX Nvision, adding to its overall weight.

“IT ALLOWS FOR A FANTASTIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE LOW AND TOP ENDS, INCREASING THE PERFORMANCE ON BOTH ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM.”

How does the Helium Frame construction benefit the overall design and performance of the ADX Nvision?

The use of Aluula material in combination with the Helium Frame construction, the multi-segment leading edge, and the strut make the new ADX Nvision exceptionally light and strong without compromising durability.

How does the Aluula construction contribute to the weight and performance?

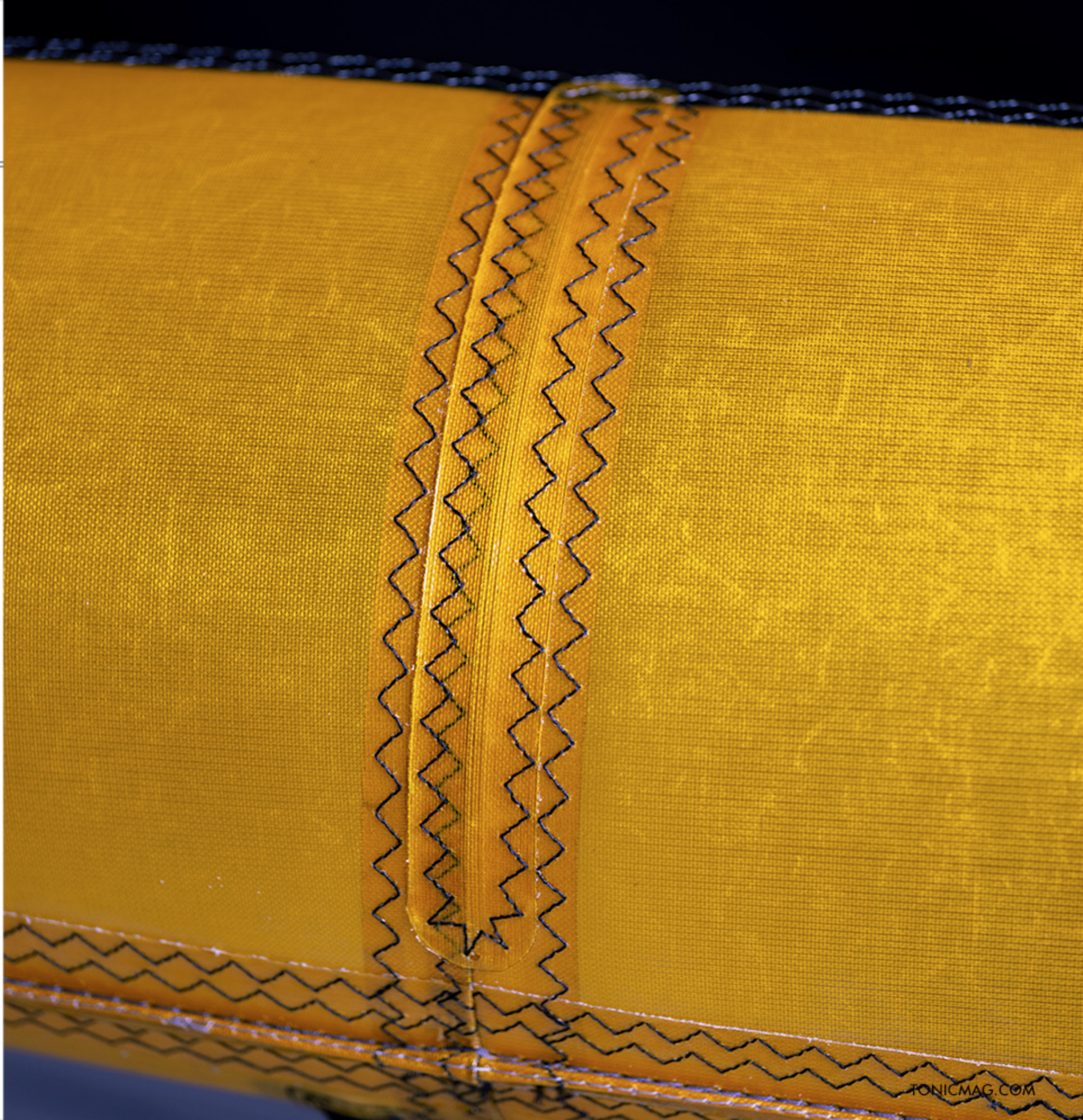
The Aluula construction results in ADX Nvision being a physically lighter and stiffer wing. With our ADX Nvision, you can achieve higher efficiency, superior direct control, better pumping efficiency, featherweight-style handling, and optimal top-end control. These enhancements make a considerable difference, particularly with larger wings.

What are the advantages of the new composite handle design?

The new ADX Nvision Composite Handles significantly reduce the overall wing weight.

How does the High Aspect Geometry feature enhance the performance of the wing?

The High Aspect Geometry gives ADX Nvision maximum power efficiency. It allows for a fantastic balance between the low and top ends, increasing the performance on both ends of the spectrum.





“THOSE FEATURES PROVIDE HIGH EFFICIENCY, ULTIMATE LOW-END POWER AND A SENSE OF CONTROL IN ALL CONDITIONS.”

How does the 50D Nano ripstop canopy contribute to the durability of the Wing-Surfer ADX Nvision?

The 50D Nano ripstop canopy is low stretch and tear-resistant, ensuring the ADX Nvision can handle even the most intense conditions. This is emphasised by the new panel layout developed to take full advantage of the Aluula material.

Can you share some insight on the design features like Edge Construction, High V Dihedral Inflated Structure and Ergonomic Curved Strut in the ADX Nvision?

High V Dihedral Inflated Structure: Increased dihedral provides optimised riding balance.

Ergonomic Curved Strut: The Ergonomic Curved Strut between the handles puts your front and back hands at a comfortable and efficient angle to each other, making it easier to sheet in.

How do features like Optimised Draft Stability and Optimised Power Delivery impact the performance?

Those features provide high efficiency, ultimate low-end power and a sense of control in all conditions. They make the wing extremely balanced with little to no draft movement, neither in the shallow end nor when overpowered.

What unique features are provided in the ADX Nvision for foil carry protection?

The ADX Nvision bag has shoulder straps with foil carry protection, making it easy to carry all the gear in one swing to the beach. The bag features a wide opening so the wing can be easily and quickly stored.



“ WE ALSO DRAW FROM A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE FROM SELECT CONSUMER TESTING IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WITHIN THE TESTING PROCESS. ”

It has ventilation features so the wing can dry out even if packed in the bag. It also includes an inside pouch to store smaller accessory items. The front and back panels of the bag are padded, making it comfortable to carry and protect the wing.

What sizes does the Wing-Surfer ADX Nvision come in?

Adx Nvision comes in eight sizes: 3,0 / 3,5 / 4,0 / 4,5 / 5,0 / 5,5 / 6,0 / 7,0 /

Who was mainly involved in the design process of the Wing-Surfer ADX Nvision?

Our wing designer, Noah Hoffman, is the driving force behind our wing designs. He works with a team that includes Robby Naish, product manager Michi Schweiger, Zdenek Maryzko, Austin Kalama, Koa Fabio and other riders to design and test our wings. We also draw from a wealth of knowledge from select consumer testing in different locations within the testing process.

What level of riding is the Wing-Surfer ADX Nvision for?

The ADX and the ADX Nvision are all-rounders who feel at home in many conditions and riding styles. That is the strength of that wing design.

Great! Thank you so much for your time, Michi and Zdenek!

Thanks, Jen!

Mastering flatwater SUP starts on a foil board, which can be challenging and requires dedication and unwavering determination. However, the rewards of becoming proficient in this skill are well worth the effort! In this tutorial, Philippe Echaroux, an internationally renowned artist and experienced foiler, will provide guidance and insights to help you master flatwater starts on a SUP foil.

FLATWATER SUP FOILING

WORDS PHILIPPE ECHAROUX PHOTOS ALEX STUMPF



1

2



3



GEAR:

To begin, it is recommended that you use a modern narrow SUP foil board, such as the Armstrong Downwind board line. Opt for a board with a volume around 30L greater than your body weight in kilograms. This will provide stability and help generate the necessary speed. Additionally, a rigid carbon paddle with a larger-than-usual blade can be beneficial. A paddle that is 10-15cm taller than your height is recommended, although Phil personally prefers using one that is 18cm taller for better paddling efficiency.

TUTORIAL:

In the accompanying photos, Phil uses an

85L Armstrong Downwind Board, an 865 Performance Mast, a 60cm Fuselage, an APF 1675 Front Foil, and the Pump 202 Stabilizer. He also uses a PPC Paddle.

PHOTOS 1 AND 2:

The initial step is to build up some speed without considering the foil. Before the first photo, Phil takes a few gentle strokes to ensure that his board is heading in the right direction and lying flat on the water. These initial strokes provide some speed and stability, allowing him to establish his stance. Phil's preferred stance involves placing his back foot roughly over the leading edge of the mast and his front foot just ahead of the front wing of the foil. This stance provides comfort and places slightly more weight on the front foot. From now on, maintaining

focus and efficiency is crucial, as there is no room for wasted energy.

To gain speed, the key is to paddle as far forward as possible, towards the front foot. It's important to remember that every paddle stroke behind your hips is entirely ineffective. Always paddle from as far forward as possible towards your front foot or hips. Start with powerful strokes without worrying about the cadence, and focus on generating board speed.

PHOTO 3:

Continuing with powerful and forward strokes, you'll notice that the board starts to plane, and the nose lifts slightly above the water's surface. You're on the right track!

4

**PHOTO 4:**

In this phase, you continue paddling forward and deep while bending your knees as you reach forward. This automatically initiates the foil's pumping action. Focus on maintaining front foot pressure and ensure your knees are bent while paddling forward.

5



Be patient and just continue a little more; you're nearly there!

PHOTOS 5-6:

At this point, as you become unweighted, your board should start to lift from the water. The most significant mistake is trying to get on the foil too quickly. Keep paddling forward. You can transition from powerful

6



strokes to a higher cadence. The goal was to apply power to gain speed during these initial steps. Here, we aim to achieve the best coordination between your paddle strokes and pumping, so a high cadence stroke is key. If the board's nose hits the water at this stage, don't worry; just continue with the same technique. In fact, the rebound of the nose will assist in lifting the back of the board, too.

7



8



9



PHOTOS 7-8:

Now it's time to shift your focus from paddle strokes to pure pumping technique. If you're already a god at pumping, you can encourage the board to lift a lot earlier, even when it's still in the water. However, we aim to help everyone, so this is the

transition stage where your legs provide the energy. Your arms still help, but it's shifting.

PHOTO 9:

Continue paddling slightly - even when you're on the foil - this helps maintain speed and stability. Regarding pumping while on the foil, start with pressure on your back foot and then transition it to

the front foot. Keep your hips slightly forward and, especially if using larger foils during the learning process, position your weight above your front foot to assist in control. While paddling forward, your front foot moved a little forward on the board. If it did, just take it back a bit; the best pumping position is not to get the legs too spread; you'll be more efficient if you have a naturally narrower stance to pump the foil.

**PHOTO 10:**

Success unlocked! You're now the coolest person on the water, and all those early struggles are in the past. Look ahead; you've unlocked a new world of foiling anytime, anywhere!

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TECHNIQUE

If you've been following this Wing Foil series, you've likely been through the heel-to-toe foot switch. Now, ladies and Gentlemen, it's time for the other one! The Toe to Heel. This member of the family is equally useful. You can call on it any time you're toeside to return to heelside. Whether after a gybe or tack, you'll have the option of riding heelside in both directions.

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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN





HOW TO WING FOIL #10 - FOILING FOOT SWITCH, TOE TO HEEL

Changing your feet from toeside does require you to have a dependable and balanced toeside. If you are happily in control, adding some steps and moving around on the board will be well within your grasp.

Once again, we're going for the double-step method, involving three or four steps or shuffles. As your confidence grows, so will the fluency of your movement. The great

news is, this is pretty much the reverse of what you learnt for the heel-to-toe. You won't be far off if you walk through your heel to toe and then retrace your steps. As such, you'll be familiar with the steps as we take you through them.

To repeat what we said last time, there are several methods to switch feet. We rate this technique as one of the simplest, and it will once again set you up for the more advanced method further down the line, improving your relationship with the balance point of your foil.

Here are a few points to ponder that will make this more doable:

1. Narrower toeside stance. Same as last time! A narrower stance will put you over the foil's balance point. This means that when you move your feet, you'll disturb the board less, and in turn, the board won't surprise you. This will give you more time to place your feet, and you won't need to rush, giving you a more consistent result.
 2. Open offset stance. This should be a given when toeside, but it's worth keeping in mind. The more open you stand, the more natural it will be to move your feet and turn yourself from toeside to heelside. You'll find it easier to unstick your feet.
 3. Direction of travel. You want to be on your most balanced point of sail. Generally speaking, this will ride slightly upwind or across the wind. This puts you over the board, standing on your feet, supporting yourself. It's too far upwind, and you're more likely to lean against the wing, making moving your feet tricky at first, whilst if you bear away, the board will feel more tippy from rail to rail.
 4. Wing Position. This one is slightly different, the exception that proves the rule! Because you are toeside, your wing will be held further forward to help keep forward drive and the foil trimmed. To switch, you can move it up a tad, but lower than for the previous foot switch. If the wing is too high, it can pull you back as you switch feet, encouraging the nose to lift!
- Let's get down to the nitty-gritty and look at the crux moments in some detail...
- Set Up. Pic A**
- First and foremost, you need to be riding in a comfy toeside. As alluded to earlier, if you're not balanced and in control, it's probably not the best time to stand on one leg! From here, it's a matter of incorporating all of the advantage points from above:

B



a narrowed open off-set stance, gentle upwind course and keeping your wing forward. Here, you can see Karine cruising, comfortable and balanced in a relaxed toeside position.

Exaggerate Pic B

If you overdo something, you'll almost do it enough. Here's a prime example. You want to exaggerate opening your stance so that your hips are facing the nose. If you do this, you've already turned your body halfway to heelside, making the footsteps more intuitive. It also encourages you to get your weight centred onto both feet, preventing the tendency to lean back a little when toeside. To get into this position, look forward and let your front hand go with the wing to pull you around a little. Karine extended her front arm and allowed the wing to pull her upright and onto both feet while also turning her body more forward. Now you're ready.

C



Step 1. Both Feet Open - Back foot forward Pic C

Your first baby step. With your weight on your front foot, step your back foot a tiny bit forward. This can be a deliberate step or a slidey shuffle. You want it angled forward. This gives you room for the next step, the incoming front foot, and it balances your board and foil rail to rail whilst opening your hips even further. By stepping slightly forward, you're also centring yourself even more over the balance point of your foil. You can see how Karine's back foot has moved forward and opened. While moving her foot, Karine keeps her upper body and wing still.

D



Step 2. Charlie Chaplin - Front foot back
Pic D.

Now, with your weight on your rear foot, you can step or shuffle your front foot back right next to your rear foot. This ballet-like plie may look precarious, but you'll be surprisingly balanced because your feet are on either side of the centre line. And because you have already moved the other foot forward, you are effectively standing in the middle of the balance point or thereabouts. If you look at Karine, the nose of her board has risen a little bit, but because she's on the balance point, it doesn't jump up. By keeping the wing forward and her shoulders open, it won't rise any further. This means that although this position may not be something you dream about, it's very stable. As a result, you do not need to rush.

E



Step 3. Heel Side – Forward Target. Pic E.

Now, it's all about getting into a heel-side position. Look where you want your foot to land, eyes on the prize. You should have a fairly good idea of where your front foot goes; guide it home. Step forward and allow your upper body to turn with you. This way, you'll finish in a position that you know well. As Karine's foot lands, you can see that the board trims nicely from nose to tail. The beauty of toeside to heelside is that you return to a natural position. Therefore, as long as the foot ends up where it should, you'll be balanced and smiling.



Step 4. Optional Heelside Rearranging – Pic F.

Whether or not you need to take a fourth or even a fifth step or shuffle will depend on your original stance and your first two steps. If you started with a good amount of offset and got direct hits with your first two steps, you could already be in a comfy heel-side position. That said, even with a lot of practice, there'll be plenty of times when things don't go 100% according to plan.

It's possible that your back foot will be a bit too offset on the downwind side and could feel a bit too far forward. If so, step back toward the centre line and the mast. If you touch down, step back for sure. Here, Karine steps her rear foot back towards the centre line touch to get into a more comfortable position. If you're still uncomfortable, keep wiggling until you find your happy place.

TOP TIPS

You can see the similarities, retracing your steps from toeside to heelside. It pays dividends to practice this

on terra firma. Stick your board on something soft, stand on a towel or draw a board in the sand. Get the muscle memory firing, and you'll have less to think about once you're on the water.

Keep your upper body and wing still, using your hips, legs and feet to move.

Make a point of being deliberate and precise with your steps or shuffles. Ensuring your feet end up in the desired location guarantees you'll move around in the balance zone over your foil. The result is no surprise.

Aim to start in a narrow stance; this way you'll find the balance point. This does mean that you'll possibly need a few extra steps once you're round to the heel side.

Use little steps and aim to get forward. It's always preferable that you push the nose down and touch down—an easy recovery before you're up and flying again.

With practice, you'll find that your movements will become smoother, quicker and more comfortable, and as a result, the whole thing will feel even better.

Excellent. Look at the sequence and check out the video for the real McCoy.

Happy Switching...

C&K

LIGHTROOM

FABIAN MUHMENTHALER SCORED THE ULTIMATE BACKDROP IN PATAGONIA.
READ ALL ABOUT THE NORTH CREW'S ADVENTURE TO THIS WINGFOILING
PARADISE IN THIS ISSUE OF TONIC MAG!
PHOTO MUTE.RAW



Lightroom

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

LIGHTROOM

SOUTH AFRICA UNLEASHED A PRETTY WILD SUMMER,
AND DYLAN WICHMANN ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF IT!
PHOTO ZAC KRUYER



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

GWEN LE TUTOUR GEARED UP FOR AN EPIC SESSION ON HIS AFS 8'0 BLACKBIRD
+ 1100 PURE BEFORE THE AZE RACE IN STUNNING GUADELOUPE!
PHOTO RICHARD BOUDIA

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

FABIAN MUHMENTHALER CHASING DOWN AN UNFORGETTABLE SUNSET SESSION!
PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENA

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WORDS AND PHOTOS THE TONIC MAG TEST TEAM -
JACK GALLOWAY, LIAM PROCTOR & ROU CHATER

The Tonic Mag UK-based test team have braved the relentless February storms to put the latest gear on the market through its paces; our dedicated testers are determined to bring you firsthand reviews, ensuring you stay on top of the game with the best gear on the market! Check out the full list below.

- Cabrinha '04' Mantis
- Ozone Wing Waist Padded Belt v1
- North MA v2 1500 & 1200 Foil
- Armstrong HA Foil Range
- 880 & 1180 - 2024

RIDER JEREMY WILMOTTE
PHOTO STUART JOHNSON

BRAND CABRINHA '04'

MODEL MANTIS

SIZE 4M

YEAR 2024

"IT RETAINS THE FEELING THAT HAS APPEALED TO SUCH A WIDE VARIETY OF RIDERS"



TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



The '04' Cabrinha collection release brings the 4th generation of the Mantis. Cabrinha promises that the "04 Mantis marks the biggest evolutionary step for this iconic wing". With so many prominent design and construction improvements, this seems like a pretty fair statement! The predecessor to the '04' mantis set a very high benchmark. It was a versatile wing comfortable with various rider skill levels, capable of performing all disciplines, and felt at home in a wide range of conditions. So, has Cabrinha set the new 'gold standard' with the fourth iteration?

AT A GLANCE

There's a lot to get through with the new Mantis, some obvious, some less obvious, so let's get stuck in. The construction details have changed significantly for the new model. The panel arrangement differs from last year, and the overall panel count is much higher. Cabrinha refers to this as their new spanwise load path panel layout. This refers to the increased number of seamlines and associated canopy cloth overlaps across the wing from tip to tip. I expect these to bring stiffness and longevity improvements as they act as localised reinforcements.

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BRAND OZONE

MODEL WING WAIST PADDED BELT V1

SIZE ONE SIZE - FITS MOST

YEAR 2024

" THIS PRODUCT WOULD BE A NO-BRAINER, EVEN IF IT WERE JUST A WAIST LEASH. "



TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

As fast as the sport of winging is growing and evolving, so is the product line accompanying it. Sometimes, the brands bring us products we didn't even know we needed, and other times; the brands deliver polished versions of the Macgyver creations of passionate riders. The wing harness category has experienced elements of both, largely thanks to so many wingers having prior experience in other action sports requiring using a harness and varying preferences.

Ozone has contributed excellently to this space through the new Wing Waist Padded Belt. It sits between a simple waist leash and a compact waist harness. The external load-bearing structure of the product is the thick webbing that we're used to on waist leashes, but the internal areas that make contact with your back and sides have been padded with a minimalist contoured EVA foam padding. This leaves the front as only webbing, allowing a simple sliding hook to be used. The harness closes via a strong buckle of a good size and is adjusted like any other webbing strap. It features two elasticated retainers to deal with excess webbing,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND NORTH

MODEL MA V2

SIZE 1500 / 1200

YEAR 2024

“ THEY’VE
ACHIEVED THEIR
OBJECTIVE OF
CREATING
SOMETHING
VERSATILE WITH
A BROAD SPEED
RANGE. ”

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



North MA v2

1500 (1500cm², WS 920, AR 5.6)

1200 (1200cm², WS 875, AR 6.4)

Rider weight: 84kg

AT A GLANCE

The North MA v2 series is North’s second generation of the Mid Aspect Sonar foil collection. It is clear from both the product marketing and the unreputable performance on the water that the design objectives were even more ambitious than the last time around! To build upon the wide speed range and intuitive riding feel they’d already achieved, the team pursued even more, versatility and improved top-end performance characteristics to produce a wing to cover ALL foiling disciplines.

Overall, the North MA v2 collection bucks the trend of bringing a product to market. It is not just a bunch of sizes of a foil design that have been scaled up or down from one design size. It represents a collection of foils with key design characteristics (like foil profile, for example) that aim to deliver a familiar and largely consistent feeling to ride but with evolving performance characteristics as you progress through the sizes.

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BRAND ARMSTRONG

MODEL HA FOIL RANGE

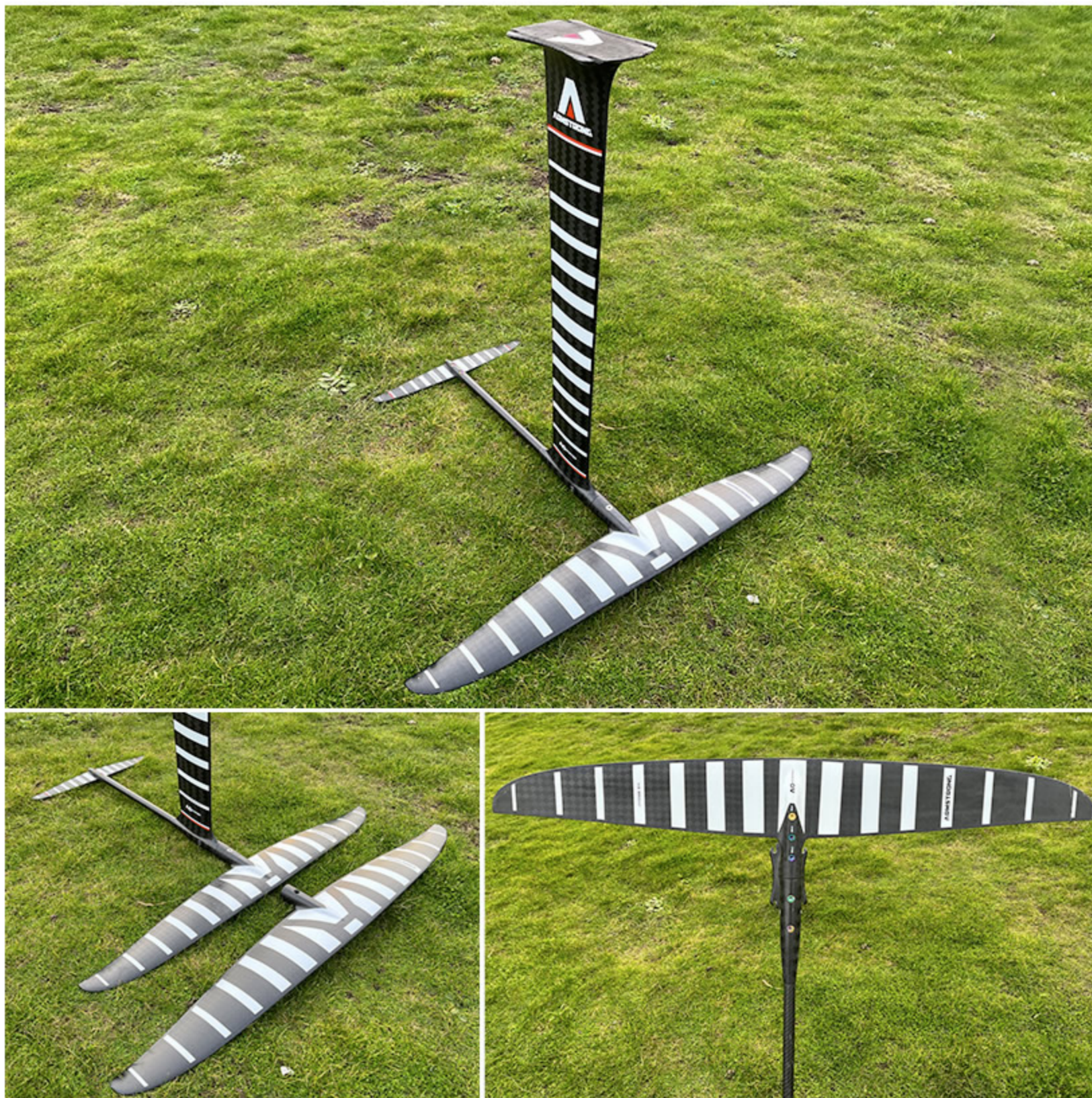
SIZE 880 & 1180

YEAR 2024



" IF I HAD TO HAVE A ONE-FOIL QUIVER FOR ALL FOIL SPORTS - PRONE, WINGING, DOWNWIND - IT WOULD BE THE HA880. "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

The latest innovation from Armstrong's ever-progressing range is the second edition of the High Aspect (HA) Foil Range. It aims to build upon the success of its predecessors, released in 2021. Designed to cater to the needs of intermediate to expert surfers, downwind enthusiasts, and wing foilers, Armstrong claims this range brings an unparalleled blend of agility, ease of pumping, and boundless gliding potential. In this review, we'll test the 880 and 1180 to determine if all the hype is true!

Unboxing the two HAs when they arrived, it was immediately obvious that Armstrong had put a lot of work into developing this foil. A newly developed section shape, outline, and profile are very obvious, particularly how the section is compared to the first edition.

With this section and design in mind, Armstrong recommends downsizing if you previously rode the original HA range, facilitating a familiar pumping experience with an overall performance boost. I initially tested the HA925 a few years ago, so the new 880 would be a good comparison.

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**FACE
PLANT**



**THE WORLDS
MOST
SUSTAINABLE
SUNGLASSES**

"My eyes have never felt so loved"

- Sukie R



**MADE WITH 5 X RECYCLED
PLASTIC BOTTLES
BIODEGRADABLE LENSES
REPLACEABLE LENSES
INDESTRUCTIBLE DESIGN
LIFETIME GUARANTEE**

CLICK HERE to check them out!

READERS GALLERY

Here's your chance to be featured in Tonic Mag, have the right to brag about being famous, and win a Tonic Mag T-shirt and hoodie of your choice!

Simply upload your photo on Instagram using #tonicmag and tag @tonic_mag, and you might just spot it in the latest issue of Tonic Mag. It's as easy as that!

Congratulations to our Issue 19 winner, Lewis Merrony!

"This shot was taken at Freshwater West, SW Wales, on a small ground swell and a cross offshore winds. It's rare to catch these conditions without surfers crowding the break, so I was eager to capitalise on it and sailed till dusk. Renowned photographer and fellow foil addict Paul Box caught this image in the dwindling light just before sunset, resulting in a spectacular backdrop." - Lewis Merrony.

**CLICK HERE FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN NEXT ISSUE!**



Put the popcorn on; it's Movie Night!

The Tonic Mag website is packed with the latest news and videos from the wingfoiling, foiling, SUPing and surfing world, and these are the four most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs-up likes over the last two months!

Like what you see? Give it a thumbs up; it could be the next hot pick!

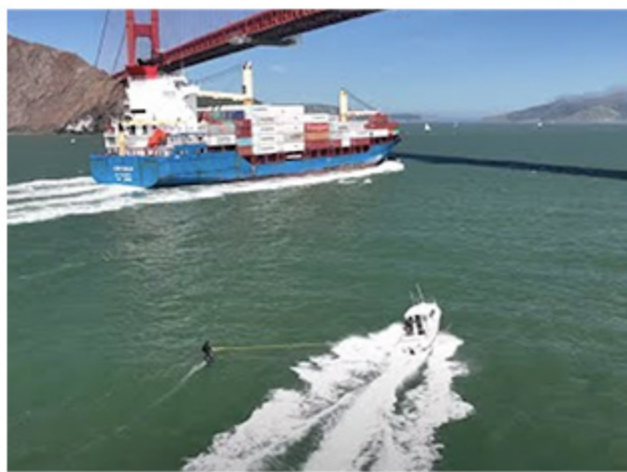
MOVIE NIGHT

#1

FOIL SURFING A CARGO SHIP WAVE UNDER THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

Coming in at #1 - Get ready for some exciting footage as the legendary Kai Lenny and Jamie O'Brian conquer freezing shark-infested waters to ride the monumental wake of a colossal cargo ship!

189 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2

FOIL | BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE PHILIPPINES | NORTH

The North crew snagged #2 with their 'behind the scenes' video from their Philippines adventure, which was also nominated for 'Best Movie of 2023' by our readers. Grab the popcorn, it's well worth a watch!

107 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3

HUMP DAY. WHEN FOILS AND FRIENDS ALIGN

This one was also nominated as one of the 'Best Movies of 2023' for good reason! A celebration of the random epic sessions with the foil community, that's what it's all about -Watch HUMP DAY here!

94 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4

PRONE SESSION ON THE HA 880 FILMED BY BENJAMIN

Watch Jeremy Wilmotte and his incredible 9-year-old son, Ben, come together for an unforgettable prone session. Get ready for an action-packed adventure that will make you want to grab your board and join the fun!

89 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

RIDER NADJA BIANCHET
PHOTO ERIC DURAN

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