

Kitesurf 1

THE WORLD'S 1ST KITESURF MAG

**MIND
BLOWING
MOVES!**

THE BASICS TO THE
HOTTEST MOVES OF THE MOMENT



**COMPETITION
KICK-OFF**

PKRA - KPWT - BKSA

KITE SPEED RECORD

EUROPEAN JUNIOR CUP

WAVE MASTERS

SPOTLIGHT ON

AARON HADLOW

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WEST INDIAS TRIP: PORT MARIN TO THE TOBAGO CAYS

future? I have no idea what my future will be. I'd like to get an Olympic medal (in sailing), spend time with my girlfriend, have

air, try snowkiting, ride waves, to what I want to do, explore areas where no one else has been...

LAUREL EASTMAN

25 years old.

Kitesurfing for: 2 and a half years.

Living in the Dominican Republic (Hotel sponsor), in Rio with her boyfriend and in Hawaii with friends.

Favourite spots: Everywhere I go, I try to

get something out of it, I'm where I am, I go for it.

Equipment: Wipika AMP from 10 to 22 m²,

Board: Edge Board Twinset 147cm.

Favourite tricks: Big grabbed rotations

Other sports: As a child I adored sports. I played volleyball from aged 6 in California.



GABI STEINDL

27 years old (born 16 October 1975).

Sponsors: North Kiteboarding, Fanatic Boards.

Kitesurfing since: August 2002.

Lives:...in her board bag. Originally from Vienna, Austria.

Favourite spots: Secret lagoons in southern Morocco, near the Sahara.

Equipment: North kites from 6 to 16m²,

Board: Fanatic Twin Tip

Favourite tricks: Big air one foot, lots of varied, multiple rotations. Anything that gets the adrenaline pumping.

Life before kitesurfing: As a kid I was a two times horse riding national champion in 1991 and 92. I was 15/16 years old

My parents played tennis. They supported me, me and my horse Joker. At 20 I found that boys were more important than the horse! At 21 I went to do marketing and tourism studies in Scotland. Then I went to London and worked for a business magazine. I really liked London. I did lots of aerobics and yoga and became an aerobics teacher. But I fancied a change and took a job in Hong Kong working for the same company. I found that a fantastic place, totally mixed. You can live 24/24 and never sleep. And you're really close to those fantastic Asian islands. I went to Bali, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, New Guinea and Taiwan... Then in Hong Kong I changed jobs and became marketing manager for an extreme sports magazine, Action Asia. That's where I first saw something about kitesurf and said straight away I wanted to learn to do it!

How did you get into kitesurfing:

I'd always wanted to learn to surf and kite seemed like the perfect compromise. I'd already done some wakeboarding and snowboarding. But with a kite you don't need a boat or a wave, just a bit of wind. I wanted to try when I was in Bali but there wasn't any wind. When I left Hong Kong after two years

thanks to: Gunnar, the Naish rep. Robin Oggard who lent me my first kite, my Dad, Robby Naish who does everything

Then I moved to Montana. My sister and I got hooked on snowsports. I've also done some kayaking, climbing, ATB,... Nowadays I don't do as much, some yoga, running, swimming and kiting of course!

Travel: I started going travelling alone, Portuguese Algarve (Lagos) where I worked in a bar. Then London where I looked after peoples' cats and dogs. In Chamonix I was a hotel housekeeper and ski rep.... In West Africa I was a teacher of environmental education, working with nature. Then I landed in New Zealand for two years, filming dolphins from a boat. In winter I filmed skiing and snowboarding. I was into extreme sports. My best friend in New Zealand was a pro windsurfer. He heard about kitesurfing and tried it out; I started about the same time.

First Impressions: I though it was cool, good fun, I really felt the adrenaline bubbling. Then I went to the Red Bull contest. I saw all the tricks and thought I'd like to try some of that. I bought a ticket to Hawaii and set about learning. Then I spent three months back in New Zealand discovering the beast on my own. It was quite dangerous. Cindy Mosey, PKRA 2002 champion, gave me a lesson, then I started training with Jeff Tobias—I was working in a kite shop with him. A year later I became a kite instructor. I've had a great time!

there I thought I'd quit my career and become a pro kitesurfer. I've always wanted to be the best in a particular discipline, I'd finally found the sport, but I still hadn't tried it. It was in Morocco with a friend that I finally had a go. I loved it! After just a couple of days I was able to get back upwind. After three weeks I started jumping. In Morocco I had to change my air ticket three times, I didn't want to leave. I finally did and then went off to El Yaque, Margarita, Venezuela, and trained all winter to be ready for the world championship tours this year. I picked El Yaque because there aren't many spots where the wind blows from October onwards.

What does kitesurf mean to you: It's about freedom, being at one with the forces of nature, the wind and the water. I feel good as soon as I'm on the water, it makes me happy.

The two tours situation: I think they should get together. Each has a different style and it would be more credible for the sport. I think the skill levels are generally higher on the PKRA. Two girls really impress me: Cindy Mosey and Ingrid Kollbichler.

for me and believes in me, and her dad which supported me during my initial events.

Competitions: The PKRA press-gang signed me up for their tour. I was all set to go travelling again, I'd been in one place for a year. So I went on the tour last year and did more than 15 competitions. This year I'd like to do fewer competitions and more trips.

Opponents: I've got lots of strong opponents on both tours, especially Petra, she's hot. And Fabienne and Sandrine.

To help the sport develop we have to make safety the number one priority! That means being 100% safe, show that in my riding, set a good example. Next month I'm opening a kite school in Cabarete and I'll be making safety a priority.

Tricks: They evolve fast but it's hard to guess where they're going next. For me personally I'd like to get into snowkiting, also big upside downs and grabs. The most important is good style.

If you weren't kitesurfing: I'd be living in New Zealand, teaching something to do with the ocean.

The future: I see that in this sport or other extreme sports for a long time to come. I could set up kite schools in different parts of the world, for example, and do an extreme sports TV show...

The development of the sport: Bringing big numbers in poses all sorts of problems. Firstly there should be a license you have to get to kitesurf. Most accidents seem to happen with people who don't know how to unwind their lines, land or take off properly....

As for cost, it's early yet, prices will come down and it will popularise slowly.

Tricks: It's all moving really quickly. If you look at a video of last year you can see how far things have already come. The progress is so fast. It's because there are different sports influencing kitesurf, like snowboard, surf, BMX and motocross

If you weren't kitesurfing: I have no idea. I don't want to be anything else. Everyone can choose what they want to be, I want to be a kitesurfer.

The future: I just want to live kiting. I'd like to stay a pro rider for many years, be at the top and have a great time travelling and meeting people.

I'd like to thank North, all my friends in competition who help me and my parents. Hey, kite forever!