

Padre Island Moon newspaper article:



GulfBreeze - Windsport Magazine Gear Reviews

Windsport.....gear reviews

Since 1982, Windsport magazine has provided news, travel features, product reviews, instruction and videos as one of the top rated windsurfing magazines in North America. During November, the Editor, Pete DeKay and Technical Editor, Derek Rijff, were at Bird Island Basin (BIB) to conduct some 2011 board and sail reviews.

Pete is from Toronto, Ontario, Canada and has been Editor of Windsport magazine for the past five years. He lives at Hood River, Oregon during the winter months. Pete has made several trips to Punta San Carlos, Baja, Mexico for wave sailing and had a break-through trip recently. He is also an instructor with the ABK Boardsports on the east coast when needed.

Derek is from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and has been Windsport magazine Technical Editor since 2002. He began doing board reviews and started as an instructor with ABK Boardsports in 1999. Derek also worked at Worldwinds Windsurfing for two seasons long ago and was one of the instructors for the four day ABK Camp recently held at BIB. Derek lives in Rio Vista, California where he operates the Delta Windsurfing Company.

Reviews....boards and sails

Windsport magazine performs many windsurfing equipment reviews each year at various locations. Equipment manufacturers provide boards and sails based on a size range and ability level criteria given them by Windsport magazine. The 2011 equipment reviews at BIB this year include eight board and five sail manufacturers.

Reviews of eight freestyle wave and wave boards in the medium (85-96 liter) range began last month in the waves at Punta San Carlos, Baja, Mexico. Additional reviews of these boards are currently being done at BIB. Sails in the lower (5.2-5.7 meter) range were also tested with these boards. Equipment reviews currently at BIB also included eight boards for light wind progressive (125-155 liter) criteria and sails in the low end (6.9-7.9) of the large sail range.

Complete board reviews include various photos, narrative of the ride, jibe and windsurfing levels best suited for the gear. The final reviews are published in the magazine and posted on the web site at <http://www.windsport.com/>.

Reviewers....ABK team

In addition to the Windsport testers, some ABK crew members also helped with the gear reviews. Brendon Quinn, from Santa Cruz, California has been a full time ABK instructor for the past three years. Brendon is a team rider for RRD boards and sails. You can read about some travel experiences in his blog at <http://www.windsport.com/thewindsurfigypsyblog>.

Tom Lepak from Auburn, New York has been an ABK instructor for eight years and Windsport equipment reviewer for four years. For the past three years Tom has been helping teach members of the Cornell University Sailing Club on a volunteer basis. Andy Brand, ABK owner, also helped with some of the Windsport board and sail reviews between ABK camps scheduled at BIB and South Padre Island.

Local...contributions

Worldwinds Windsurfing also contributed to the gear reviews at BIB. Equipment shipments, storage and shop access are necessary for the Windsport review team. Worldwinds staff members also did some limited testing of some of the new gear at BIB. Olivier Jallais' trip to Punta San Carlos gave him a chance to test the new wave gear in wave conditions while the Windsport team was there.

Windsport has conducted a couple of gear reviews at South Padre Island in the past. This year was the second time the equipment reviews were done locally. While the weather here during November can be uncertain, the Windsport test team braved the cold air and higher winds to test the smaller gear and generally had clear skies and light to moderate wind to test the larger equipment.

Since it is not very exciting to see photos of the new gear, Brendon was kind enough to provide some freestyle action shots of each of the Windsport and ABK team members that were here to test some of the latest 2011 boards and sails. Hopefully, local weather, sailing options and logistical support will encourage Windsport to return to do more equipment reviews in the future.

Photo captions and credits



Worldwinds' Olivier Jallais testing wave gear at Punta San Carlos, Baja in October, 2010



Tom Lepak doing a Vulcan in Aruba



Brendon Quinn in Rio Vista, CA doing a Grubby



Derek Rijff doing an Eslder at home in Rio Vista, CA



Andy Brandt mid-way through a Forward Loop in Rio Vista, CA