

The Kiteboarder

THEKITEBOARDER.COM

magazine

Shades of Green

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FOR 2010

FEBRUARY 10



Alex broke the kitespeed record despite Lüderitz having the least amount of wind in November since 1972. Photo Mouvement



NEW WORLD KITESPEED RECORDS SET

By Marina Chang/Melissa Gil

On November 14, Frenchman Alex Caizergues (F-One) set a new kite world record on his 8m Bandit III at 50.98 knots, breaking his former record of 50.57 knots. Caizergues said, "Speed is first for me a passion. I'm addicted to this sport, to the feelings I get when I'm going down the run at more than 100 km/h (62 miles peak speed). It's also a kind a "fulfillment" because with all the F-One team, we put so much energy and effort all year long to be ready for this event, to achieve our goals when I break a record it's a real moment of joy and happiness, shared with all the people involved in this adventure, even if they are usually far away!" He added, "I set the world record with less wind than last year, around 40 to 45 knots only. I really believe I have the ability to break the outright record, but now will have to wait until next year!" The French hydrofoil trimaran Hydroptere set the current world sailing speed record at 51.36 knots when its crew beat Caizergues' former record last September 4. The event also marked two new USA speed sailing records. Rob Douglas (Cabrinha) came in just a hair behind Caizergues at 50.95 knots and newcomer to speed racing Melissa Gil (Cabrinha) finished with a speed of 38 knots.

Started in 1997, the Lüderitz Speed Challenge is an annual speed sailing event held every November in Lüderitz, Namibia, on the west coast of Africa. The course is at a spot called the Second Lagoon, where it can blow up to 55 knots. In the four weeks of the event, speed sailors had only eight days of racing; records show that it was the worst November to date for wind since 1972. Race days were held on days with wind over 25 knots and up to 45 knots. Caizergues, Douglas and Seb Cattalan (first sailor to break 50 knots) have all recorded GPS speeds in excess of 51.50 knots so it is just a matter of time before they sail this fast between the gates of the course. Plans are already being developed to make Lüderitz faster next year by building a better chop killer. For complete info, see www.luderitz-speed.com

US riders Rob Douglas and Melissa Gil set US records in Lüderitz. Photo Jamie Douglas



Alex feels confident that kites will break the current trimaran speed record next year. Photo Band Originale

