

# stance

KITEBOARDING ATTITUDE

#18  
*Changes*

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
a perfect weekend

**THE KITE BIZ**  
How does it work?

**SHOOTING BANDIT3**  
The best photos commentated

**SNOWKITE IS BACK**  
Trip in Greece  
Tutorial: learn to snowkite

**PKRA**

All about the judging methods

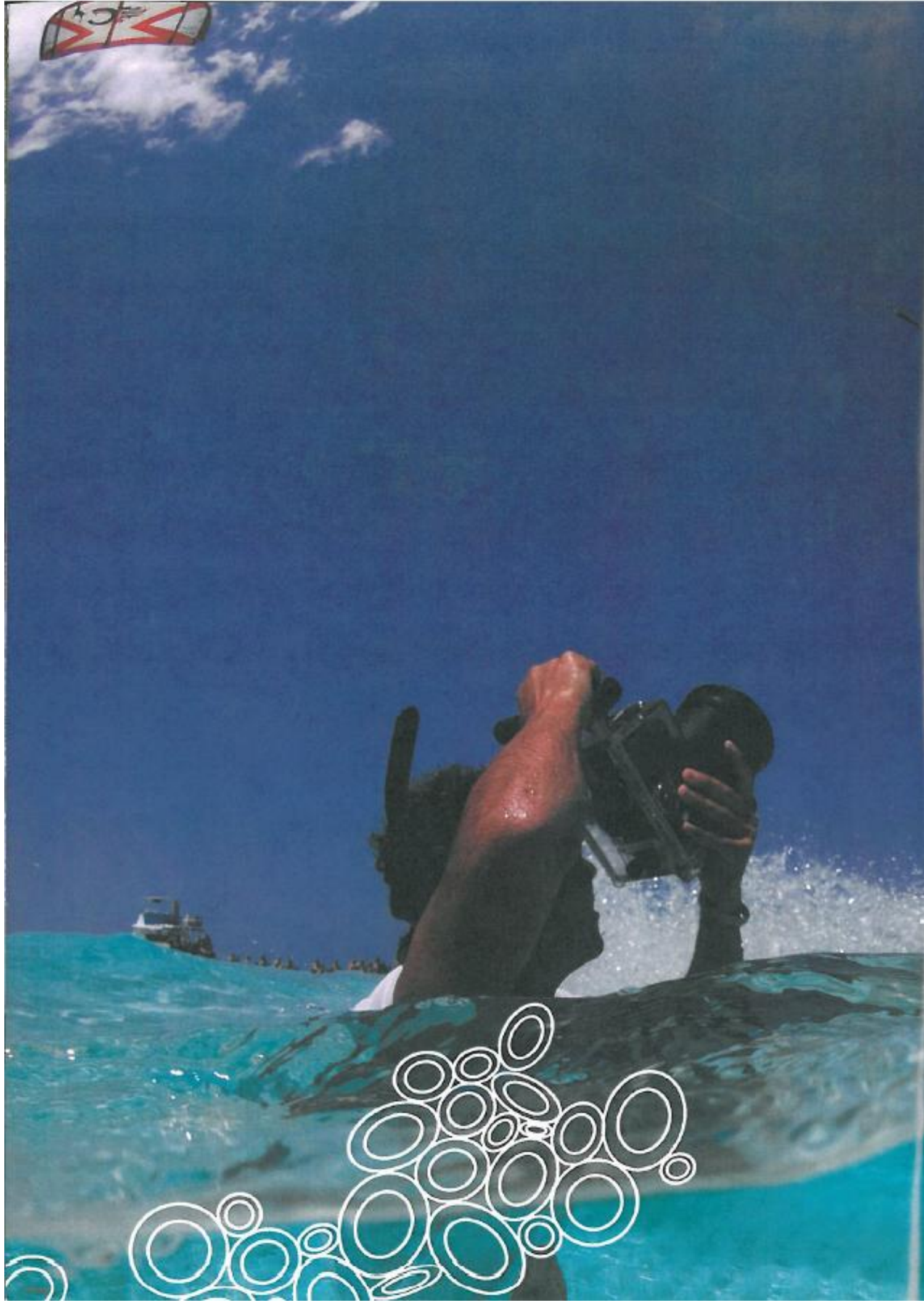
**RICK JENSEN**

Interview of the latest punk

**CORE SLIDER JAM**  
real event 4 real people



www.kiteboarding-attitude.com





# PERFECT WEEK-END

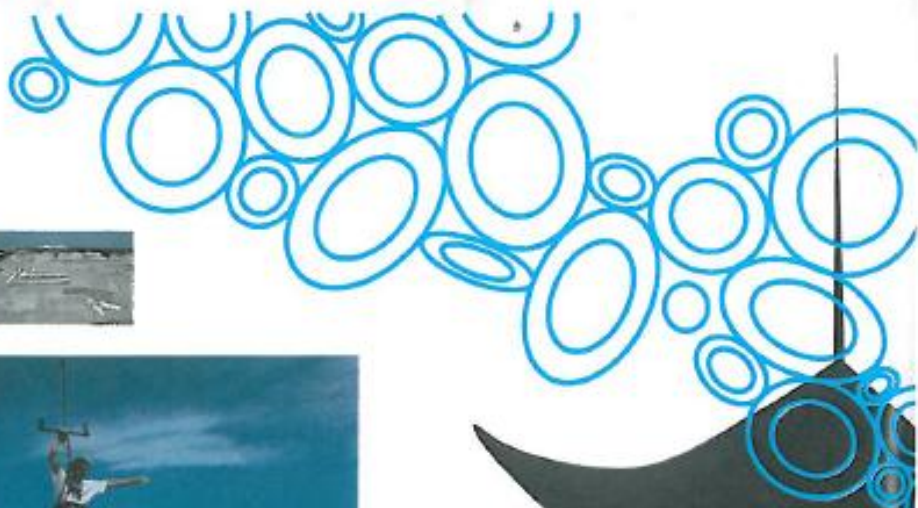
Darien Levy flying above the notorious stingrays in the giant ocean aquarium.

*Text: Melissa Gil | Photos: Steve Broadbelt*

The Cayman Islands is one of the Caribbean's greatest treasures. What sets apart the Cayman Islands from the rest of the Caribbean is its unique location just below Cuba. This provides an exclusive look to the Cayman's you simply can't find in the Caribbean chain. Its diverse set of world class activities including kiteboarding, surfing, skateboarding, scuba diving, snorkeling, wave pool, and yes a active night life!

TRIP CAYMAN

The coral reef doesn't stand a chance with  
Joe, a complete genius.





Three small islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman lie on the turquoise waters of the western Caribbean, only 480 miles south of Miami, offering boarders and watermen a dream location.

We have traveled around the globe to try and find what the most amazing kiteboarding vacation, but what does the "Best trip ever", really include? We have found epic kiteboarding spots before, but not much else going on. We have found epic surf, but little wind. We have gone on great scuba adventures, but no where to launch kites! Grand Cayman offered us everything, that is why we can say it was truly the "Best trip ever!"

Damien LeRoy, Jon Modica, Melissa Gil and Fritz Otiker flew to Grand Cayman, without knowing this would be a full on, action packed and epic long weekend. What could be more fun than traveling with friends to a beautiful tropical island in the Caribbean to kitesurf on turquoise, translucent flat water, ride epic waves over the reef, dive with sharks on the edge of the reef, snorkel and kits with hundreds of sting rays, and on top of that visit a sick surf and skate park?

We flew into Grand Cayman Airport Wednesday night and were welcomed by Mike and George with the Kitehouse at Grand Cayman, which is partnered with Ocean Frontiers, Grand Cayman's best dive center, to bring together world class scuba diving and world class kiteboarding. Thursday we were up at the crack of dawn and drove past the Blow Holes to East End. We met with Moe and Steve at Ocean Frontiers and drove the boat out to the shipwrecks to shoot with the sunrise. Despite being half awake, the riding was amazing and the spot was spectacular. Damien and Melissa were first out riding 10m kites, on flat water, in a beautiful sunrise, with 80 degree water and 80 degree air. Basically it was one of the most pleasant sessions of their lives. Of course Damien thought he needed to spice things up and bit and jump over the most rusted and jagged shipwreck sticking out of the water!

Once the sun was up we did a downwinder to Ocean Frontiers and Compass Point Hotel. Jon surfed the boat's wake as we cruised downwind. Once we got to the dive center Damien used





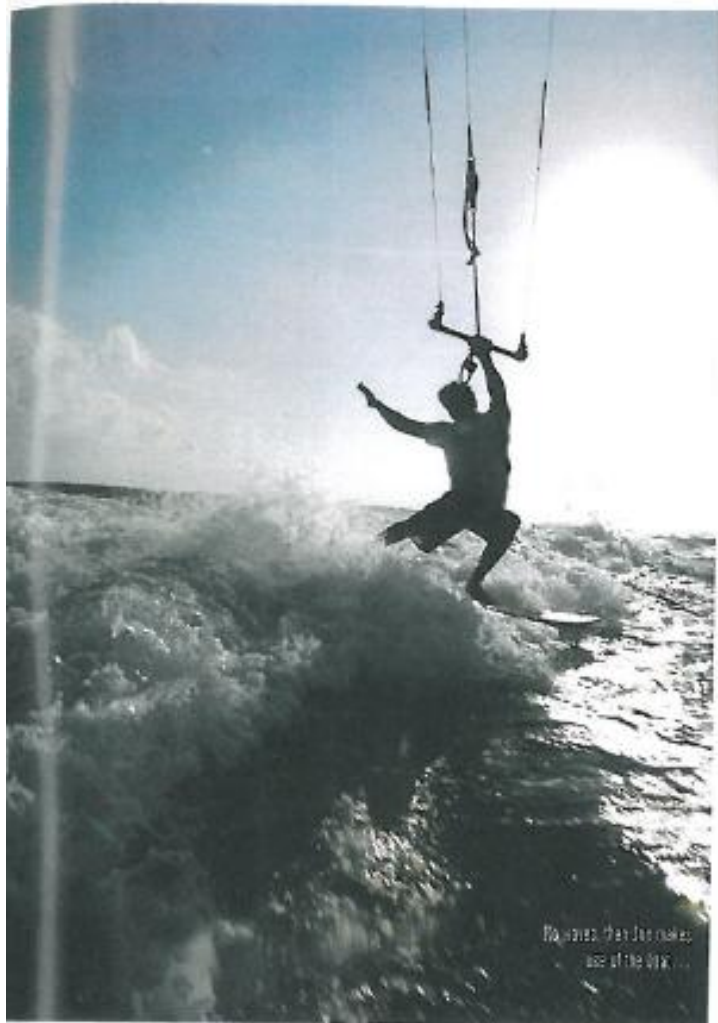
Danier warms up above a rocky wreck.



the docks as a slider park. Friday we drove to Gun Bay where the barrier reef protecting the bay and the shallows allow for perfect turquoise flat water. The beautiful white sand beach has plenty of room for launching the kites. Later that day we cruised downwind heading north to a spot where the reef comes closer to shore to ride waves. The downwinders were spectacular, the views of the coastline were breath taking, and the ocean has so many colors, you can see every imaginable tone of blue, from deep blue to turquoise to almost purple! And when you jumped you wanted to stay up there to check out everything beneath the sea, huge coral heads, beautiful seagrass beds and tons of sting rays! And kitting wasn't the only fun! The waves were great for regular surfing when the wind was light in the afternoons we would go for a surf session at Blow Holes.

The next day we headed out on the boat to Rum Point and Sting Ray City. We enjoyed the boat ride just as much as the kitting, as we gazed upon the changing shoreline from beautiful white sand beaches to big rocky 20' cliffs. Once we got to Rum Point we couldn't believe how beautiful the water is there, it makes you want to jump in and swim and play all day long. Just a couple of miles from Rum Point lies a big sand bar called Sting Ray City, named after the hundreds of sting rays that hang around and feed in this sand bar. Back in the day fisherman would come back after a long day of fishing out in the open ocean and clean their fish at this sandbar, the food attracted the sting rays and so they became accustomed to being close to humans and feeding. As soon as we jumped off the boat you could see the stingrays coming to check you out. Talk about a close encounter with sea creatures, these stingrays have no fear and come as close as they can get, rubbing themselves on you. We thought this was the greatest underwater experience, but we had no idea what was to come with our diving adventure.

The diving experience was like none other. Between the friendly and knowledgeable staff, well-equipped and comfortable dive boats, and the great dive site selection, Ocean Frontiers offers a five star dive operation. Diving out in the open ocean of the East End is very exciting and Ocean Frontiers



No waves than the makes use of the day...



Melissa happy about her perfect weekend



TRIP CAYMAN

Demian, freestyle al surista







Jon Rida

offers site visits that no one else goes to. As soon as we hit the water we realized why this place is known worldwide for its diving. The visibility was amazing and the reef wall seemed immense and majestic, standing steep and going down well below 100'. The coral reef was full of life and healthy. Swimming through canyons and tunnels was a rush; we saw colorful fish and coral in every direction, huge grouper, moray eels and lobster. As we turned out of one of the canyon's we came to a small spot of sand on the bottom where we stood to gaze upon the most thrilling of all the sea creatures yet. Two reef sharks were roaming around. We thought we would be scared of being in the water with a shark, but the experience was really unimaginable. There was something amazing of being next to this incredible animal in its element. Somehow peace and happiness find you in this underwater world as you listen to your own breathing and praise the many wonders of our planet.

Our last day the wind was out and the waves were small so we decided to go check out the Black Pearl Surf and Skate Park, which has the world's largest free standing wave and 6,200 square foot skate park. We had so much fun. Jon was a natural; he rode that wave like he had been doing it for years and he even got barreled!

Grand Cayman is blessed with warm steady wind nearly year round, turquoise crystal clear water and a lot to do no matter the weather.

We stayed at the Compass Point Dive Resort, which has all the comforts of home and is fully equipped. We literally stepped out of our room everyday for a full day adventure of kitting, snorkeling or diving.

#### Links:

The Kitehouse at Grand Cayman Islands: <http://www.thekitehouse.com/cayman.htm>

Ocean Frontiers: <http://www.oceanfrontiers.com/>

Black Pearl Surf and Skate Park: <http://www.blackpearl.ky/>

