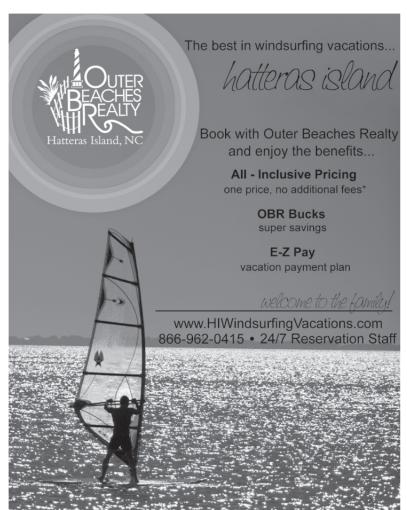


Pistol Fires Once Again

By Dana Miller

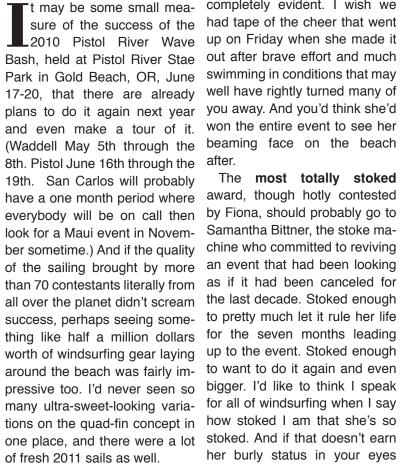




"Our Quality is Our Strength"

Wave Panther 2 ■ Free(ride) 4 Infinity Zephyr EZZY RDM Mast ■ Kids' Rigs

Contact Ezzy Sails USA for a dealer near you at www.ezzy.com or 800-490-7436



As for the most impressive sailing out of so much incredibly impressive sailing, I would offer my humble estimation that Francisco Gova continues to be the man. I'm admittedly quite biased though, as I not only totally love the way he rides the wave but have a deep appreciation for the way he carries himself on the beach as well. Humble and approachable, he's a shinning example to us all. And it's always an honor to get to see him sail.

The risk in choosing "the most" or a "best" is that it all too often diminishes the contributions of everybody else that came to test themselves. For all were ripping. Keith Teboul, who stepped in to judge, found time to get out for some sesh on some incredibly-dialed gear with his incredibly-dialed riding style. Robby Naish wasn't entered, but put in an appearance and threw down heavily. Kevin Pritchard, Nat Gill, Nathan Mershon and Kai Katchadourian and all the



Taking Turns—One competitor shreds a lip (left), while another (above) contemplates heading out at the Pistol River Wave Bash. (photos Dana Miller)

rest of the pros brought their she was there because it was all strong fluid moves and vertical she had. (I wouldn't have let her wave attack. The groms came from far and wide to sail with heart and courage. The ladies brought style, grace and strong sailing. Anyone that still thinks windsurfing has been canceled look like she had a full suit on.) needs to meet one of the youngest entrants in the contest, Fiona Wylde. At all of thirteen, her stoke and dedication is already completely evident. I wish we had tape of the cheer that went up on Friday when she made it out after brave effort and much swimming in conditions that may well have rightly turned many of won the entire event to see her to help make the expenses, beaming face on the beach but they sent two of their main after.

award, though hotly contested by Fiona, should probably go to Samantha Bittner, the stoke machine who committed to reviving an event that had been looking as if it had been canceled for the last decade. Stoked enough to pretty much let it rule her life for the seven months leading beautiful thing to see so much up to the event. Stoked enough love flowing toward having this to want to do it again and even bigger. I'd like to think I speak for all of windsurfing when I say how stoked I am that she's so stoked. And if that doesn't earn her burly status in your eyes as well, she sailed the Rock in a short sleeve suit the first day

go out in 50 degree water like that, but didn't find out till she was coming back out with blue lips—from a distance, the black long-sleeved rash guard made it Way burly. And stoked.

The biggest props to the most unsung hero of the 2010 Bash have to be for Russ Faurot. As the significant other of the event promoter, I'm quite sure he's done much more than we will ever know to help pull this off. And DaKine was on it huge as well. Not just nine large boxes of schwag and a pile of cash people to help with the event: The most totally stoked Bill Morrissey, who stepped in to be the beach marshal, and Chris Gilbert was in the house, helping out large. And a large Mahalo to all the other sponsors that committed cash, prizes, stoke, tshirts, cookies, their time and all the other things it takes to pull something like this off. It was a event again.

> The heartfelt gratitude award goes out to a handful of my very best friends who did so much to support me in my efforts to contribute something to this project and also helped me get past being so stressed about all



Top Two—First and second-place finishers Kevin Pritchard and Francisco Goya were willing to get their feet dirty, and wear lots of neoprene and winter jackets for the opportunity to compete at Pistol River in June. (photo Dana Miller)



Max Headroom—Whit Poor puts the ShadowBox GPS through its paces in the windy days before the contest. (photo Tigi)

probably even for the best that The conditions were still pretty I sailed so badly in my heats, good for a contest. Not large, as it would have certainly been but fairly solid Rock conditions poor form to do well in an event with waves breaking overhead I seem to have been widely per- in the sets most days and plenty ceived as having far more to do of wind to sail them with. Yes, with than I did.

it, yet still shown up at the very event they had been complaining about to enjoy the show? And then went to the closing party cost to them. "Full Sail" by the bias coming through but I really sure. love Full Sail and am nothing but grateful the Hood River-based to be fully stoked and already brewery hooked us up so fully.

the missed opportunities. It was how it so often goes though? what a gift to get three-and-a-Speaking of poor form, it would half days of wind and waves out probably be the height of poor of four for the event. And windy form to give an award for it, but waves ten days straight before if you were going to, wouldn't it the contest for those who wanthave to go to anyone who spent ed to show up early and get a the months before the event feel for the place. Whit and Tycomplaining on line and on the son Poor were on some of that beach about how they would and totally threw down impressomehow be inconvenienced by sive shows on those 3.7 days. Whit logged a 47-foot jump on his ShadowBox (a new three-dimensional GPS that measures. among many other things, height and had more complaints about gained to the inch) the first day, the beer that was provided at no and a 54-footer the next. While he didn't land that one. I did see keg, I might add. Now I suppose them both land some huge stuff this is just more of my personal those days. Fearless flying for

Everyone I've talked to seems looking forward to next year. As The "it's all too ironic" award am I. Though I'm going to try to might have to be that those two delegate better next year and 3.7 days right before the event maybe even take a couple days didn't come several days later to off sailing before the event to coincide with the finals. Isn't that heal up and be more ready for

Just Warming Up—Dana Miller throwing down some great moves. Unfortunately it is not during one of his heats. (photo Tigi)

What else did I learn? A lot retend to forget so much of it and then proceed to make so many of the same mistakes again. Ahhhhhh yes, contests have taught me so much, yet I still haven't learned.

ally. Always do. It's just too bad I sponsors included DaKine, Star- Beachcomber, and ShadowBox. board, Severne, Neil Pryde, JP You'll find a few more rants, re-Australia, Ezzy, RRD, Naish, sults, updates and photos in the ProMotion, O'Neill, Maui Sails, summer issue of boardheadin-Maui Ultra Fins, Big Winds, Chi-ternational.com. nook, Pritchard Windsurfing, NoLimitz, RealWind, Windance,

Windsurfing Magazine, Iwind-Pistol River Wave Bash 2010 surf.com, Windsport, Inn of the



