

**INSIDE:**

ZANE SCHWEITZER :: TATY FRANS :: ED ANGULO :: 2010 HARNESS SHOWCASE

NORTH AMERICA'S WINDSURFING MAGAZINE

# windsport

BLOWING UP  
THE MARSHALL  
ISLANDS

COLOMBIA DIARIES  
RIDING INTO  
THE UNKNOWN

PISTOL RIVER  
WAVE BASH  
THE RETURN OF  
A LEGEND

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# **THE BASH IS BACK**

**2010 Pistol  
River Wave  
Bash Goes Off**

**Words by Rick Whidden  
Photos by John Carter**



Kevin Pritchard, in winning form.

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Walking back after a heat.

## Southwest Oregon coast waves are no sissies. No one escapes getting pounded a few times.

**T**he Pistol River Wave Bash returned in force from a 10-year hiatus to the remote southwest corner of Oregon. The rugged and pristine Pacific coastline returned the favour with exceptional wind and waves to challenge 81 competitors aligned in five divisions. By every measure, the Bash delivered a classic windsurfing competition in all

elements of a dream event. And the winner was, drum roll please... windsurfing. Of course, every division had a winner too, but the Bash had that special energy, indescribably delicious, the feeling of being part of something incredibly special. A clear reinforcement of the dynamics of a great sport and the heights your windsurfing experience can reach with some friendly competition.

At the core of the 2010 Pistol River Wave Bash were the superb organizational skills of newcomer Sam Bittner, a passionate sailor only a few years removed from college with a degree in sports marketing. Bittner, with a never-say-die attitude, assembled a coalition of industry support, aligned an exceptional team of passionate windsurfers to cover judging and ran it all with an infectious smile and positive attitude. If a stone was left unturned no one noticed or were too tired to care.

Scheduling the Pistol River Wave Bash in mid-June is prime-time for the Pacific to unleash the opposite of its namesake. Many who arrived days before the Bash were blown away by a powerful prevailing northwesterly and dug deep for the smallest sails they owned. On the first day of the contest a building breeze matched mast-high faces and the heats just kicked off like clockwork under the experienced eye of head judge and retired PWA veteran, Matt Pritchard.



Huddling behind the rock.



Katchadourian riding to third place.



# **All the marbles were in play as KP and Cisco traded scorching wave rides and Double Forwards.**



Another huge Back Loop from Goya.

Southwest Oregon coast waves are no sissies. Pistol River is a sandbar break, which can often make for tight spacing, and every point in the tide cycle delivers a unique personality. Incoming water has to go somewhere and the current just off the beach is a river. No one escapes getting pounded a few times. Get pounded enough and the chilly water rewards you with an ice cream headache and fingers so numb, grabbing the boom on a new tack is like learning to sail all over again. Lesson learned, don't get pounded!

With the Bash just days away from the summer solstice, the year's longest day, a full single elimination played out on Day 1 with Kevin Pritchard taking the event lead. Those talented sailors saw a gorgeous cloud-free sunset and earned the satisfaction of being the best among the very best from a solid day of wavesailing. With a complete single elimination, Bittner had her first event already in the bag no matter what happened next. But, why stop there, with good food, live music, great camping and more fun wave sailing to be had?

The following days gave everyone at least another heat as the Bash progressed into double-elimination mode, and for many, a lot more sailing as they battled back into position to fight against the top seeds from the single elimination. The most heats went to many of the juniors who took the opportunity to sign-up for more than one division. Eventual junior winner Zane Schweitzer, and runner-up Bernd Roediger seemed to be on the water constantly battling the top men in the expert division. Against the experts, Roediger (11th) edged out Schweitzer (13th) in a class of 31 pro-level sailors—solid sailing from these dynamic wave rippers from Maui.





Whit Poor battles his way to fourth place.

## 2010 PISTOL RIVER WAVE BASH RESULTS

### Expert:

- 1st Kevin Pritchard
- 2nd Francisco Goya
- 3rd Kai Katchadourian
- 4th Whit Poor
- 5th Nat Gill

### Junior:

- 1st Zane Schweitzer
- 2nd Bernd Roediger
- 3rd Morgan Noireaux

### Masters:

- 1st Attila Tivadar
- 2nd MacRae Wyldé
- 3rd Royn Bartholdi

### Amateur:

- 1st Lars Bergstrom
- 2nd Allemand Emanuele
- 3rd Ruben Lemmens

### Women:

- 1st Ingrid Larouche
- 2nd Tanya Saleh
- 3rd Christine Vogt

The expert division offered the opportunity to match bottom turns with PWA stars such as Kevin Pritchard, Francisco Goya, and Kai Katchadourian. The balance of the top spots at the end of the day are all solid sailors, Whit and Tyson Poor, veteran Gorge sailors such as Nathan Mershon and Sean Aiken, Maui standouts like Jesse Brown, Nat Gill and Skylar Heywood and top Irish wavesailor Timo Mullen. Give talented sailors a venue and an amazing event unfolds.

The women, amateurs and masters all featured great contests inside the competition. The women's group, despite being small in numbers, sailed a series of heats with Gorge freestyle veteran Ingrid Larouche leading the way in her first wave contest. Thirteen-year-old Fiona Wyldé sailed every women's heat and her junior heats as well, and despite getting pounded on occasion in the big surf, she earned the respect of everyone for not only her ability but the persistence and tenacity to match.

The amateur men's story was Lars Bergstrom. Veteran sailor, journalist and yes, event organizer; Lars produced the Pistol River

Wave Bash for years through the '90s. Coming back as a competitor and unselfishly offering Bittner all the advice she asked for; Lars also sailed an impeccable event to win over a surprisingly international group of sailors. Not to be outdone by the youngsters in the amateurs, the masters saw 12 guys defy their youth and sail a single and double elimination with the title going to Attila Tivadar in a come-from-behind win over MacRae Wyldé.

As with every dream event, the final heat in the top division puts the Top 2 guys mano a mano. All the marbles were in play as the final expert heat at the Bash had Kevin Pritchard and Francisco Goya each with one loss fighting for the title late on Day 4. Bittner and head judge Matt Pritchard

put their patience on the line and were fully rewarded with a building breeze and head-high sets rolling in. KP and Cisco traded scorching wave rides and Double Forwards; but in the end, youth served KP over experience brought forth by Cisco, and the well-earned title went to Kevin, which he gladly shares with the sport of windsurfing. 🏆

*Rick Whidden is the MauiSails International sales manager and competed in the masters division at the Bash. He earned the event's Good Sportsmanship award for helping a fellow competitor with a broken mast at the expense of one of his own heats. For more info on the Wave Bash and the complete sponsor list, go to [pistolriverwavebash.com](http://pistolriverwavebash.com).*

KP and Goya on the podium.





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All the info you need to go shopping for your next harness.



#### ON THE COVER

**Rider:**  
Boujmaa Guillouf  
**Photographer:**  
Jerome Houyvet

Boujmaa, one of the most progressive riders in the world today, sends a relaxed-looking air off the lip at Ho'okipa.



## launch

# WHEN ROBBY NAISH SPEAKS...

**Sam Bittner, organizer of the 2010 Pistol River Wave Bash,** had to be feeling great with how her event was going. As of the third night's wrap-up party, everything has been decided except the winner of the expert division, which would go the following day. There has been wind, waves, stoked competitors, fun parties, friendly town locals in Gold Beach, world-class professional photographers, worldwide web coverage, industry support and even the arrival of Robby Naish. How could things get any better?

So just before the awards ceremony when Robby Naish got up

and said a few words to the crowd about Sam Bittner and this great event, it gave me goose bumps. I can only imagine how Sam felt!

In a short off-the-cuff speech Naish told us about Sam's dream for this event, all her hard work and how we need to support events regardless of whether the conditions are epic or not. It suddenly hit home for me how special the 2010 Pistol River Wave Bash is and how important this event really is for windsurfing in North America. Imagine if the stoke generated here can be carried forward into an event on Maui and Waddell Creek and maybe

even a full U.S. wave tour. Look at what Sam's dream has started.

I've always had the utmost respect for organizers whether they put on wave, racing, freestyle or demo events. I know the work it takes to put on any event, whether it's big like the Bash, U.S. Nationals and Calema Mid-winters or smaller (but growing), like the East Coast Windsurfing Festival and Hatteras Wave Jam. Thank you, Sam and all other event organizers who put in countless hours of work for a pat on the back just because you love windsurfing.  
—PETE DEKAY, EDITOR



Naish, at the Bash. Carter photo