



# MASTERS MATTERS

## President's Message

By Lauri Gregg, CAN 258

As I sit here looking over beautiful Lac Bay in Bonaire, I can say my windsurfing season has officially started. There were a few rusty jibes to start out but it hasn't taken long to get back into the groove. With the weather warming up back home I'm sure many of you have already been out enjoying the winds and the warmth of spring. The first race is already set for May 26<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa. The Kona fleet is growing and there is now a Kona Canada website. It definitely looks like it's going to be a fun racing season. Of course, I wish all you the raceboard sailors all the best and want to let you know you'll be welcomed into the Kona fleet when you get tired of holding up that 9.5 sail!

The big news this spring is that windsurfing is being dumped from the Olympics in favor of kiting. This is not surprising to me after seeing the exponential growth of kiting in Hatteras. From my perspective it is more important that both sports learn to happily co-exist and respect each other on the water in much the same way as skiing and snowboarding do on snow.

As usual we have another summer of exciting events planned beginning with a Spring Clinic at Port Bolster, June 1-3. This will be followed by an early CMWA Championships at the Rondeau Yacht Club, in the Rondeau Provincial Park, June 28-30. Please check out our website for registration details. Join us and have fun windsurfing this summer!

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## Bonaire 2012

By Stephanie Todd

This year was no exception to the beauty that the island brings us. We enjoyed warm trade winds and sunshine 98% of the time. The view from the villa is changing as the foliage from the Mangroves grow so we can no longer see the wind turbine from the lower patio. The gardens bloomed while we were there, turning our place into our own little haven.

This is our 6<sup>th</sup> trip to Bonaire and we were not disappointed. We go mainly to windsurf because of the consistent warm easterlies. This year, we had a one day anomaly where the winds switched to the west and brought torrential rain! Who says there is no climate change? It soon switched back to normal and we were off to the beach for yet another day of windsurfing from Bonaire Windsurf Place. ([www.BonaireWindsurfPlace.com](http://www.BonaireWindsurfPlace.com))

We sailed almost daily with only snorkelling for me after I injured my arm smacking it on the boom going over the handlebar when it was blowing 20 + knots. Lesson learned - get into the footstraps first before harnessing in! Thanks to Patton, Elvis and Kenneth at BWP for all the tips for getting into the straps first and quickly. Not easy at first until you learn to hang from the boom and keep your arms forward to keep the board form rounding up. I also had to learn not to get into the "Whoa Nelly" when going at mach speeds while trying to get into the back strap which I also figured out makes me round up into the wind! This year we sailed smaller gear like the 93L Starboard Kode with a 4.5 & 4.8m<sup>2</sup> sails. I sailed the 111L iSonic more this year until I bought a 90L Starboard from Monique (Bonaire's hottest female racer!). I thought I was going fast before; now I was breaking the sound barrier. Needless to say my jibes improved. Lauri has gotten his carve in his jibe down to a science and is working toward those perfectly easy jibes. This is the best place for anyone to practise the perfect jibe.

Gail and Henry from Waterloo arrived the second week. They were big on doing some snorkelling which was perfect since the winds were low and my arm was still hurting. I got to see some pretty amazing things underwater on the other side of the island at Thousand Steps and Karpata. It gave me time to heal as the winds proceeded to crank as the last two weeks progressed upwards from 13 kts to 25 kts.

We sailed hard every day and spent many an evening after sailing watching the locals and some of our American friends continue to sail while we had beers with Din, Katie, Carrie and Payton along

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with a few others in their group. We hosted a couple of dinner parties serving up Canadian maple syrup basted ribs and chili shrimp with our friends from Switzerland, Marc, Ladina, Natalia, Roger and Ruta at one and Martin and Miriam ( [www.kontkibonaire.com](http://www.kontkibonaire.com) ) along with Don Lee. Good times, good food and wine.

Kontiki is one of our main sponsors for the NeilPryde CMWA Championships again this year offering a 1 week stay for two at the Kontiki Bonaire. You have to be at our championships at Rondeau Yacht Club to win. Check out our website for information on trips to Bonaire and the Championships. [www.windsurf.ca](http://www.windsurf.ca)



Lauri mastering his shortboard skills!



## CMWA SPRING GET-TOGETHER 2012

By Stephanie Todd

This was a great weekend that started out a little damp and almost finished in the same fashion. We were graced by sunshine on a few occasions throughout the weekend at the best of times. Hot showers were in order before gorging ourselves on BC Smoked Salmon, nachos and homemade pizzas on Friday night, washed down with a few drinks. We had a full house for the weekend with 17 participants, 2 coaches and Liz Lester from McCallum Massage to talk to us about Matrix Retraining and do demos on everyone on Saturday.

We had wind albeit it was offshore. Our great coaches, Dan and Geoff got us out on the water quickly giving us excellent feedback and tips. I haven't seen so many smiling faces despite the cooler weather. We are not complaining; we had wind this year on both days. We were actually practising planning carved jibes offshore and working with the beginners closer to shore on Saturday. Paddle boarding also took place at the end of the day with Geoff teaching me fast turns on the board which meant I spent some time in the water providing some entertainment! All of this was followed by more food as the potluck dinner took shape after hors d'oeuvres of more BC Smoked Salmon on the deck of the Executive Cottage watching the sun set before we retired to the Green cottage to enjoy a plethora of food and desserts! Thanks to the CMWA, we wrapped up the evening with a few gifts for our newer participants.

Sunday started out with light winds from the W turning NW allowing everyone who had decided to stay to get out on the water. Gord returned with his children Tegan and Nolan in time for the showers. We all had a wonderful lunch then the sun came out blazing so we were able to finish packing up. Meanwhile, Gord and the kids went swimming off the dock. Bob and I wrapped up the day on the Executive deck along with Joyce in the sunshine and enjoyed a beer.

We look forward to seeing many of our participants return in the fall along with some new faces...so spread the word. Dates for the fall clinic are September 7-9 at the Burgess Enclave in Port Bolster on Lake Simcoe. Information is available at [www.windsurf.ca](http://www.windsurf.ca).

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## Kona One Design News

### Kona Calema Midwinters Canadian Report

From Denis Dagenais:

I was asked to write an article about the Calema Midwinters (March 2012). I raced in the Kona fleet and opted to register with chartering a Kona One Design and the 8.2 Kona sail. The race location is great. The people who organize this race have great organizational skills. Many classes sail this event and you better be ready to get out on the water when they call your class out to the water! As some races are finished these fleets will have a lunch rotation at some point in the daily schedule. I feel there will be more Canadians attending this event in the future. You can drive or fly (Orlando) to this location. There are many choices of lodging. If there is a learning item to be aware of, it's on car rental insurance. My experience is that even if I got a great rental fee on a car, once at the rental desk they lure you or attempt to convince you that you don't have the sufficient insurance coverage. Any CMWA member knowing the 'real' story in car insurance in Florida, please feel free to provide your knowledge to me or write an article on this subject matter.

As for Kona racing, this event was a Kona US National but it became an international event as racers from Canada, Puerto-Rico, Sweden, Norway attended. Expect more country entries next year, maybe Denmark, Germany or Portugal will be the add-ons. So this means, book your charter early if you plan to attend. Also, racing this event next year in 2013 will be a great warm-up for the Kona Worlds in Trois-Rivières (Québec/Canada) since it will be in mid-June 2013. If you already race or own a Kona, my word of advice, register this summer (2012) for a one-year ahead preview of the site and race the Kona East-Coast Championship (June 23-24, 2012) in Trois-Rivières. The posting for this event is on the Kona website. <http://www.konaone.com/Event/63/east-coast-championships>

From John Darling:

**Thursday March 1:** We rig up at Calema's Kelly Beach where the charter Kona boards and rigs have arrived. Windy -- I get into the back footstraps of my Kona for the first time with my new tight but not too snug booties. Pulled pork sandwiches and free beer at the reception as we Canadians mix with a host of American sailors, including a half-dozen pro Formula sailors, over 30 amateur Formulas and about 30 Kona boards (and a half dozen open raceboards).

**Friday March 2:** A big 80-strong Formula fleet, 27 Konas and 6 Technos hit the water. I'm still recovering from surgery so I race the first race in 10-15 knots, watching Andrée take the lead! Andrée does not win though as she should have done -- we will have to talk to her about that -- she

somehow lets Nevin Sayre, Joachim and another rogue Swede beat her downwind. I quit after the first race as the wind goes wild to 15-20 knots south -- but it's Florida -- nice and warm.

**Saturday March 3:** South winds quickly build to 15-18 to 22 knots -- everybody flying (but not me). Our big banquet at a local hotel fed us all royally that night with tons of great videos and slides of the day's activity. The Konas were all planing like mad. The Formulas and Technos were too far offshore to see clearly as they buzzed past on the horizon. I personally helped out on the finish boat recording results so I got to see some pretty awesome action with boards of all descriptions screaming by.

**Sunday March 4:** A gale-force north front barges in at 8 a.m. with heavy rain. Host and Race Officer Tinho Dornellas clocks offshore gusts to 47 knots at 10 a.m., meaning all fleets were grounded. So, the results awards happened early, with Andrée first women in Kona and in the top 10!

Robert Mew was out in his first major regatta on a Kona, among a half-dozen Canadians who showed well -- Denis Dagenais from Gatineau (Québec), and especially Woody Woodward from Moose Country, who were right up there challenging the leaders. THE MASTERS KONAS FROM CANADA WERE THERE!!

[From Suzanne Roberge \(excerpt from her blog\):](#)

Traveling to Florida with Denis Dagenais to participate in the Calema Midwinters. This is my first race outside of Canada and I will be racing in the Kona One Design Class. We flew in to Orlando on February 29th, took our rental car and drove to Cocoa Beach where we are staying. The trip went smoothly.

March 1st was a day to set up our rental equipment to our liking and take it out for a test run. I decided to install an outhaul system on my boom so that took a while. Once I went out, I realized that I had not put any lubricant on the daggerboard so came back to find some. Then out again, one of my cleats on the boom slid so I had to come back in to fix it. Finally I was able to go out and test everything and it seemed to work fine. The big test will be tomorrow.

### **March 2 - First day of the regatta**

This morning the sun is shining and the winds are light. Konas are sent out at 10 a.m. to start the racing. We do one race in light wind then go to the beach for a few minutes before we are told to go back out for another race. But now the wind has picked up to around 15 knots. I start the second race, do the upwind leg and manage to start the downwind leg and then I drop my sail. It

took me about 10 minutes if not more to manage to lift it up again and get going. By then, I am tired and I know I won't be able to finish that race so I head back to the beach. Lunch is served! We are called out for one more race but I decided not to do it but to just go out and play and practice. Denis is having a better day and in the third race, he finishes 5th overall, his best international race finish ever.

### **March 3 - Second day**

It is blowing and the sun is shining! Oops but a bit much for me to race so I am beached (with John Darling). There are 4 women in the Kona race: Andrée Gauthier from Toronto who I can never beat, Joachim Larsson's daughter who is 18 and raised on a Kona, a woman named Joanna Merritt from Colorado who is older than me and moi. Joanna did all the races. So I feel a bit bad that I was not able to hold on in heavier winds with 7.4 sail. I may have been able to just play but I did not risk it. I know I can do it with a smaller sail on the Kona in higher winds but I did not have such a sail in Florida.

### **March 4 - Third and final day**

It is blowing and raining but the rain stops early and eventually the sun comes out. However, it is a tad cold. The sweater and the jacket and the long pants come out of hiding. Everybody hangs out while the organizers decide if they are going to run races in high winds and in a direction that would take the racers farther out. We have lunch then we are told that racing is finished for the weekend. The awards are handed out and then everybody gets ready to go home. Even if I did not get to race much, I am happy that I came to the Calema Midwinters to live the experience of a big regatta with more than 2 fleets. (And I got to meet some of windsurfing's big names!!) There were 27 people registered in the Kona fleet and the whole event was very well organized. Hopefully I can make it there again in 2013!

*From Olivia Mew, one of our Canadian juniors:*

I had a great time at the Calema Midwinters. It was very windy; they even had to cancel the last day since it was too windy to race. Being my first ever regatta on the RS:X I quickly learned that the rig is very powerful especially in 25 knots! Although the conditions were very challenging, I had a great time and learned lots about high wind sailing.

## Once Upon a Time: The Queens of regattas.

By [Éric Bouillet](#)

It measures 390 centimetres long, 63 width, 25 depth...It has round bottom, volume is ranging between 300 litres and 350 litres, the centreboard can be straight, semi or fully retractable. It is very performing upwind, quite fast but technical on a reach, a nightmare downwind in windy and in choppy water conditions. It can be routinely sailed between 5 and 25 knots of wind...What it is?



[Acrobatic downwind!](#)



[Bruce Kendall](#)

This is the **Open Division II Sailboard**, a class of windsurf created by IBSA (International Board Sailing Association) and built to the International Displacement Division Measurement Rules later implemented by I.Y.R.U (International Yachting Race Union) from 1979 to 1992.

### The Golden Age

Those of you, born in the 80s and after, certainly do not recall these boards and may not even know how they look like. Ask your dad, aunts or uncles...

The most famous, legendary boards, were certainly the Crit D2 and the Lechner but there were in fact hundreds of different Div IIs that were shaped and produced in different countries, all slightly different but all compliant with the Class rules.

In fact, they were rather a kind of little dinghy with a windsurf rig than a typical flat hull windsurfer.





Fontaine Pajot VMG (blue)  
Proto Oberli  
Croconuts  
Crit D2

It was diversity within similarity:



Speedline  
Lechner A390  
Croconuts  
Dobbelman PH1  
Bic Hervé Borde  
Crit D2



In the early 80s, architects were trying different shapes. Initial boards had straight non retractable or semi retractable daggerboards, fixed mast bases, relatively low volumes (270-300 litres). Straight daggerboard was making these boards very challenging to sail in windy conditions (Crit 650, Oceanite Competition, etc.).



Crit 650



Oceanite Competition



Starting in 1983 and beyond, fully retractable daggerboards, hollowed hulls, mast tracks, footstraps, etc. became the rules. Similar in appearance but different, these boards remained compliant with the tight Class rules. Two types of sails were designed for these boards:

- Type A, typical triangular short battened 6.5 m<sup>2</sup>, until 1987
- Type B, full battened 7.3 m<sup>2</sup> sail, from 1988 and after.

Type A



Type B

### The Glory

The Open Div II Class was chosen to represent the windsurfing family at the Olympic Games, in replacement of the Windglider. The Lechner A390 was elected as monotype one design in 1988 (Seoul, Korea) geared with type A sails and 1992 (Barcelona, Spain) geared with type B sails.

### The Fall

It was the Golden Age. Technology was evolving quickly and new boards with new material or shape were appearing every year in the Class. Thousands of athletes were racing and World and Regional Championships were very busy.

Unfortunately, following the 1992 Olympics, the Lechner type was dropped from the Olympics and was replaced by the raceboard Mistral One Design. Many sailors quickly switched to the MOD as there was no more competition organized for Div IIs. Suddenly, after 12 years of existence, the Div IIs vanished from the water and almost completely disappeared, even from people's memory.

What happened? Why such a punishment?

The world of windsurfing was going already very fast and mass population needed affordable, fun and easy to use equipment. Officials wanted more spectacle as funboard was booming... So were raceboards.

On the contrary, Div IIs were fragile, built in small series, technical to sail and very expensive... Not to be put into everyone's hands but built mainly for elite and competition.

Fortunately, some sailors kept them secretly in their garage and, from time to time, were still sailing them. Some, like me, even never stopped sailing them.

20 years elapsed since the last races in 1992-1993...20 years...It is a long time. Hundred of boards finished their life in garbages or simply abandoned in backyards.

So it was the Div IIs' destiny to disappear almost like dinosaurs, until...until we, two friends and I, decided to do something and restart this Class.

### **The revival - Back to the Future**

We started this group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/OpenDiv2/> and we quickly realized that we weren't alone. Dozen of guys and girls from our generation were just waiting for something like this to happen and were expecting and even dreaming of a revival of the Class.

We found passionate people such as François who, while owning an impressive collection of boards (three dozen) maintains also a unique and very resourceful blog about the Class:

<http://pavdivision2.blogspot.com/>

Started two years ago, we are now more than 400 members from everywhere, every continents, growing steadily towards 1,000. Former Olympic athletes joined us and it is not finished... An Association is also on its way. People are rebuilding their fleet in their countries.

And we started racing again together. First official race ever organized last year in France after 20 years, gathered 15 participants. Not bad after such a deep sleep.

Three races are planned already for this year, two in France, one in Greece and there is more to come in other countries. The rumour is spreading among the community and people are joining. They get their old Div II boards out from their attic, clean them and go sailing.

Of course, we are facing issues with equipment (boards and sails) that have not been produced for decades. They became rare and when we find them, they are frequently damaged. But we try to save what can be saved and restored. We do miracles in repairing and finding missing parts to give them a second life.

It will not take that long before some shapers decides to remake some. Some sailmakers also are thinking to design new sails. Just a matter of time...

It sounds like history is repeating itself and current tough times for windsurfing versus kitesurf explosive popularity is an outstanding opportunity for the Open Division II Class to revive and reposition windsurfing into regatta.

We believe this Class is the missing piece of the windsurfing community.

Call me if you need help. It's time to join the Group!

## 2011-2012 Board of Directors

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### SPONSORS



## Silent Sports

Bonaire Windsurf Place

Kon Tiki Beach Club

Makani Fins

## Upcoming Events 2012

June 16-17 – Grosse Pointe Windsurfing Club Regatta, Patterson Park, MI, USA

June 23-24 – Eastern Canada **Kona** Championship, Club Multivoile 4 Saisons, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Dominique Vallée, [can370@hotmail.com](mailto:can370@hotmail.com)

June 28-June 30 – **CMWA Championships** and OS#3, Rondeau Provincial Park, Ontario, Stephanie Todd, [surfit@sympatico.ca](mailto:surfit@sympatico.ca) or 905-953-8331.

July 14 – OS #4, Lake Scugog, ON

September 7-9 – **CMWA Fall Wrap-up & Clinic**, Port Bolster, Ont., Stephanie Todd, [surfit@sympatico.ca](mailto:surfit@sympatico.ca) or 905-953-8331.

September 15 – OS#5, TWC, Toronto

September 16 – 30<sup>th</sup> Mammoth Marathon, TWC, Toronto

## How to Reach Us

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**Or contact any member of the Board.**

The next newsletter should be published in the fall 2012. We welcome all contributions. Please e-mail your articles and pertinent pictures to [roberge811@sympatico.ca](mailto:roberge811@sympatico.ca).