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kiteboarding

MAY 2007



epic

The biggest waves, biggest air, biggest crashes

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VOLUME 6.99 US DISPLAY





PHOTOS: ELEA FAUCHERON



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→ USE PROPER TECHNIQUE AND TIMING TO BOOST BIGGER

If you're ready to go from simply jumping to boosting, improving these three critical areas will get you higher. The first two are easier to manage, while the third will take some practice.

➔ **1. Gear:** For big air, you must have a high-aspect, fast-turning kite with lift and a narrow board with large fins for control at high speed.

➔ **2. Conditions:** To achieve new heights, you'll need maximum load. First, look for 15-plus knots of steady wind. Clean kickers rolling parallel to the wind with opposing currents also help to increase power.

➔ **3. Technique:** Going big requires complete focus on your launch. Start by gaining speed and keeping the kite at 45 degrees. Keep your hands wide on the bar so the kite will turn faster, generating more lift. Spotting a launch helps with timing. Small waves can double as visual aids and ramps.

Right before reaching your takeoff point, start loading your edge and pull the kite hard to 12 o'clock. Timing is everything. You must take off exactly when the kite hits high noon. For maximum lift, simultaneously pop off the water by pushing back into the wind off your trailing foot. Next, let the kite pull you up and forward while keeping your lead knee high and the board in front. Make the jump lofty by pulling the bar in fully.

Avoid getting jerked around by keeping the kite directly overhead (it's OK to look up). Upon descent, spot your landing and steer the kite back into the direction you are traveling. Land with the board pointing slightly downwind, with power in the kite. And remember, the jump doesn't count if you can't land smoothly and ride away with speed!



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