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Thanks to Bruce and Rob Chrystal for their valued support and sponsorship of the event. They loved it from the beginning, and have supported it ever since.

www.ocean2air.co.za

Preface

The 3rd inland speed event took place at Sterkfontein Dam on the weekend of 16-17 May 2009, and what a hum dinger !

It was well supported with 25 entrants and many more supporters who packed the point to capacity on Saturday, some people left on Sunday morning due to the extreme wind.

The Northern bay at Sterkies provides excellent viewing of all the action from up close, and the ooh's and aaah's from spectators who were watching the action brought a big smile to my face. The reason being, they now get it.

The timing of the event could not have been better as a double front loomed just before the weekend. I decided to give the go ahead on Thursday, and what a blessing that was. We had excellent wind throughout, but Sunday exceeded all our expectations when it blew up to an **insane 60 knots !!!**

This time we had "not the usual" sort of problem at the speed event, for the first time there was too much wind on Sunday, which started cranking just after 10am. Only Schalk, Reese and myself were out briefly then, and boy did it get our blood pumping.

We had a mixed bag speed wise from the competitors, ranging from massive improvements such as 34% for Rob Chrystal and 25% for Reese Hendrikz, to a few decreases in speed since the last event due to the mind boggling conditions.

The Wind

Saturday started off with a moderate NW but improved to 32-37 knots at 10h40, but had too much North in it making the run too broad and the water bumpy. Despite this, Reese was the first to rack up the fastest twintip speed I've ever seen, with a 42.1 peak and 38.21 average, Anton followed this up with a 40.31 peak and 38.54 average (also on a TT). New comer Schalk Kleyn impressed me to no end by clocking a 36.48 average on his first few runs at his first speed event.

Sunday dawned with moderate 15-20 knot breeze, but quickly freshened until it blew the 20 knot Windguru forecast out the water when it gusted to a raging 60 knots just after 10am.

The direction was the perfect angle for speed on Sunday (WNW) and I had Rob at our chalet door asking for a GPS at 07h30, he was keen to get out there and didn't disappoint with a 43.01 peak and 41.01 average, this earned him a well deserved 2nd place.

Many others improved their speeds in the early going, but shortly after 10am it blew so hard that even 7's became a handful. Luckily racing started at early enough at 8am.

I ran a poll before the event to find out what wind strength the entrants wanted, ironically most said they wanted nuking wind, well they sure got what they asked for.

The Competitors



Front row, left to right : Paul, Fabio, Ross, Reese, and David

Back row, left to right : Jeff, Steve, George, Garry, Warren, Bruce, Deon, Anton, Me, Seb, Luke, and Craig

Some were absent due to the storm that had just passed such as Clyde, Sin, Schalk and others; and Rob arrived later on Saturday.

There are some great stories about the competitors of this event, here are a few of them :

- **Schalk Kleyn** is a youngster with big heart who made 3rd place in the twintip (TT) division with his first attempt at speed. He also never gave up trying and used a 3sqm Flexifoil trainer when the wind became insane. Now that's a first.

- **Reese Hendrikz** had the misfortune at the first event of tangling lines with Louis Cloete which put pay to his chances as it only blew briefly, then he had a wedding on for the next event, so he was a man on mission this time around and made good with a 2nd place. He clocked a 42.1 peak within his first few runs on a CrazyFly 130x40 TwinTip.

Reese with his turbo TT :



- **Rob Chrystal** falls into a similar category as Reese in that he was in the second heat at the first event when the wind suddenly died without warning, and he couldn't make the 2nd event. We all know how talented he is and Anton had to pull out all the stops to beat him this time. He's the most improved speed sailor, that says it all.

- Then there's **Luke Thomas** (wild-thang), he's better known for his gravity defying jumps, dead-man and loops; but he's seriously fast too. He managed to pip Anton and Reese and take 1st place in the TwinTip division with a 40.49 peak and 38.79 average.

Luke with his arms raised a day too early, perhaps he knew something we didn't



- **Paul Railton**, where the heck did KZN find this guys, he's stealth personified. Right out the blocks he clocks the best peak of the event at **45.19 knots**. He's certainly one to watch at the next event.

- **Bruce Chrystal** had to leave on Saturday afternoon to get back for his wife's Birthday on Sunday. He clocked a 40.72 peak in far from ideal conditions on Saturday. Had he been there for Sunday's epic conditions, the inter-provincial would have gone KZN's way for sure.
We almost sank one another on Friday night with too much Johnny Black, not so Bru.
- **Gert Fouche** has been after a 40+ peak since the first event, and was the first guy brave enough to climb onto a speedboard at the first event. He recently bought a speedboard and GPS, so watch out KZN. He's hard core to say the least; last Winter he blew up his 22sqm Naish at Bronks using lung power alone when he forgot his pump at home; he also helped us remove the buoys on Sunday in a howling gale, spray all over the place, and get this, in his SPEEDO and nothing else. This time he did it though, with a stunning 41.05, well done jou majien.
- **Brett Peach** and **Adam Malus** came to the event all hyped for speed, only to find their 9sqm had a tear in the LE from some t... that loaned it just prior to the event and didn't tell them about it. That only left a 12sqm which 110kg Adam tried to muscle down, but this was the definitely the wrong weekend for 12's.
- **George Krafft, Jeff Dell, and Sebastien Delepine** all broke 30 knots for the first time at the event, both on max and average. We can thank George for some of the lovely pics.
- **Glen Scorgie** and **Ray Deftereos** drove through to compete for a single day as they had prior commitments; sadly it was on Saturday though. So they spent twice as long driving verses kiting, now that's dedication and support that I really appreciate guys.
- **Sinisa Misic** from [KiteSports](#) took all the wipe-out photo's, and what gems they are. He cut his finger badly on a glass on Saturday evening and could not compete on Sunday, what a pity. I hope it heals quickly.
- Last but not least, **Anton Nel**. He's won all 3 events and dramatically improved his speeds each time to stay on top of the podium. He's a tough act to follow, and here's why; his average speed at each event improved as follows : **34.58** to **40.25** to **42.66**.

He's an accomplished sailor in every respect and it shows in the way he kites. He's always got the right size kite and board for the conditions at hand, and his timing is impeccable, just ask those in 2nd place. He hauls his rescue duck to each event and helps lay and collect the buoys. He's got nerve too clocking a **44.96 peak** on his last run and taking a beating in the process right at the end of his run. He's also a demon photographer and took the most stunning photos of me breaking 50 for the first time inland on Sunday, I'll cherish them mate.

A worthy winner to say the least !



By the Numbers

50.28 – New peak speed inland

3 – The number of Twintips (freestyle) to peak over 40 knots

10 – The number of competitors to break 40 knots

12 – The number of competitors to improve their speeds

33.63% – The biggest margin of speed improvement. Rob Chrystal

16500 km – The total distance competitors travelled to attend

Other Contributors

- To my wife **Nicolene** and my boys **Michael** (10) and **Peter** (8) for letting me devote a chunk of time towards this event.
- **Anton Nel**, for bringing his rubber duck, which is a comfort to us all in conditions such as these. Anton's wife, **Shellee Nel**, also helped by making the buoys, rock bags and flags. <http://www.pottz.co.za/>
- Thanks to **Warren Gallow** for always being so willing to help out.
- Thanks to **Sammy Ntsuku** (Sterkfontein resort manager) for being so helpful and allowing me to book several chalets well in advance for the duration of the event period.
- Thanks to **Rob Munro** from Naish Africa (www.naishafrica.com) for arranging a new batch of GT-31's and Aquapacs at discounted pricing. We wouldn't be able to run the event without these.
- Thanks to **Steven Pike** (Spike) from Wavescape (www.wavescape.co.za) for his valuable weather insights in the lead up to the event. We sure latched onto a monster this time.
- Thanks to **Garry Robinson** from Airtool for collaborating with me on a new board design and construction, it clearly works. www.airtool.co.za

Notables not present

- **Niel Joubert**, last year's runner up; he's the Cape's version of Paul Railton and helped us beat KZN last time when he still resided in Joburg. The event coincided with Grant Ross's wedding which he attended. Thanks for sending us the all wind Grant and all my best wishes to you and your lovely wife.
- **Danie Joubert**, he got sick just before the event and couldn't risk it.
- **Justin Faragher** was pre-booked to do a photo shoot the same weekend.
- **Rob Munro** injured his back while weed eating his garden. And the rest of the Cape crew, Andre, Christian, Raymond, Hennie . . . (Seb's in Morocco)
- **Sipho**, we missed you.
- **Angelo** and **Eleni Angelos** and had their first child on Friday morning, a beautiful daughter they've named Georgia.
- My dear friend **Mark Kerrigan**, he was as sick as dog in bed after pulling a series of 20 hour work days.
- **Christiaan Hendrikse** was studying for exams.

Overall Results

Download the full results [here](#)

No.	Competitor	Best		Div.	Equipment Kite / Board	Prev. Speed	Improve %	Province
		Max.	Ave.					
	BASIL CAMBANIS	50.28	45.33	SB	Genetrix, Airtool	43.50	4.21	Gauteng
1	ANTON NEL	44.96	42.66	SB	Airush, Airtool/Cape Dr	40.25	5.99	Gauteng
2	ROB CHRYSTAL	43.01	41.01	SB	Takoon, Airtool	30.69	33.63	KZN
3	PAUL RAILTON	45.19	40.76	SB	Takoon Furia, Airtool			KZN
4	REESE HENDRIKZ	41.69	39.65	SB	Star kite, Cape Dr	31.75	24.88	KZN
5	LUKE THOMAS – 1st TT	40.49	38.79	TT	Naish, Long Ocean	35.47	9.36	Gauteng
6	ANTON NEL	40.31	38.54	TT	Airush	35.98	7.12	Gauteng
7	BRUCE CHRYSTAL	40.72	38.45	SB	F-One, Airtool	39.35	-2.29	KZN
8	REESE HENDRIKZ – 2 nd TT	42.10	38.21	TT	Star kite, Crazy Fly	31.75	20.35	KZN
9	GERT FOUCHÉ	41.05	37.83	SB	Naish, Cape Dr	31.37	20.59	Gauteng
10	SCHALK KLEYN – 3 rd TT	38.77	36.48	TT	Flexifoil			KZN
11	GARRY ROBINSON	38.48	35.80	SB	F-One, Airtool	37.16	-3.66	KZN
12	WARREN GALLOW	38.37	34.46	SB	Airush, Cape Dr	36.90	-6.61	Gauteng
13	WARREN GALLOW	35.84	34.15	TT	Airush	36.90	-7.45	Gauteng
14	KOBUS FILMATER	35.86	33.92	TT	Airush			Gauteng
15	ROSS MCGILL	35.19	33.50	TT	F-One, Airtool	31.74	5.55	KZN
16	ADAM MALUS	34.17	32.10	TT	Best			Gauteng
17	GERT FOUCHÉ	32.09	31.50	TT	Naish	31.37	0.41	Gauteng
18	GEORGE KRAFFT	33.39	31.43	TT	unknown	29.48	6.61	Gauteng
19	SEBASTIEN DELEPINE	33.92	30.75	TT	F-One	29.28	5.02	Gauteng
20	JEFF DELL	31.45	30.57	SB	unknown	29.34	4.19	Gauteng
21	GERHARD SWART	33.80	30.55	SB	Cabrinha, Cape Dr	31.60	-3.32	Gauteng
22	JOHANN JACOBS	30.95	29.23	TT	F-One			KZN
23	GLEN SCORGIE	29.42	28.30	TT	Cabrinha, Nobile	33.50	-22.27	Gauteng
24	FABIO SALVADOR	28.90	27.00	TT	Cabrinha, Airush	32.10	-15.89	Gauteng
25	RAY DEFTEREOS	28.53	26.47	TT	Cabrinha, Nobile			Gauteng
26	CLYDE WYNTER			TT	Airush	26.37		KZN
26	DAVID VAN BLOMENSTEIN			TT	F-One			Gauteng
26	BRETT PEACH			TT	Best			Gauteng

SB = Speedboard, TT=TwinTip

Inter-Provincial Results

Gauteng won the inter-provincial trophy for the second time, but KZN narrowed the margin from last year.

Last year Gauteng won by more than 5 knots, this time it was less than 2 knots !

The inter-provincial trophy is based on the top 3 from each province over 8 seconds.

GAUTENG		KZN	
Name	Ave. Speed	Name	Ave. Speed
Basil Cambanis	45.33	Rob Chrystal	41.01
Anton Nel	42.66	Paul Railton	40.76
Luke Thomas	38.79	Reese Hendrikz	39.65
Team Average	42.26	Team Average	40.47

Wrap Up

This event raised the bar for years to come, and it'll take some time to top this one.

The wind was solid throughout and competitors had more sailing than at the previous 2 events.

The method of change over was improved so as not to cause delays, this worked well and will be used again in future. It also sped up prize-giving at the end, as the speeds were known throughout.

There were the highest number of entrants and spectators at this event.

No major incidences or injuries occurred during the event, besides Sin's finger which happened in the kitchen.

Check www.speedkiting.org for announcements about the next event, and please take the time to register there.

Early entry will be a necessity next time, as there'll be a greater demand for spots.

The pecking order of who get in first is as follows :

1. Entered online and paid. A discount will be given to those doing so.
2. Entered online but not paid.
3. Verbal intent to enter.

I'll open entries for the next event in June and the **closing date is 15 August 2009**. Please adhere to this else a late entry fee WILL be imposed, as this caused havoc with my planning.

A full refund will be given to you if you are unable to make it on the weekend I nominate.

I look forward to seeing you all later this year at the next event.

The event period will be from **21 August** through to **28 September 2009**.

Friday or Monday might be used if the wind is forecast a day early or later.

These will only be used if necessary. We were extremely lucky this time around.

Please mail me your comments and suggestions to basil@ellada.co.za, your feedback will help improve future events.

The event has left me on a high that will last for some time, thanks so much to everyone for their support and for making it so special.

Yours Sincerely



Basil Cambanis
CONTEST DIRECTOR