

FIRST TEST

VERSATILITY!

- ◇ BEST WAROO 09 9M
- ◇ CABRINHA CROSSBOW IDS 9M
- ◇ F ONE BANDIT DOS 12M

WELCOME TO OUR TOTALLY NEW LOOK FIRST TEST SECTION.

Over the next nine pages we examine three totally adaptable kite designs in microcosm. To give you the most information and most insight into these kites possible, we've made some fundamental changes to this part of our reviews. So here's what all the little boxes and sections mean...

KS INFO:

This bit gives you quick facts about the kite such as bar size, number of struts, aspect ratio and projected area so that you can make quick comparisons on the spot.

ABOUT:

Simply tells you where the product is coming from and who it's aimed at.

SETTING UP:

Here we run through a tick list detailing things such as construction, bar and bridle configurations, inflations systems and other things you'll want to know about but that don't necessarily reveal themselves when you fly the kite.

ON THE WATER:

This describes how our sessions with the product play out. All the characteristics that you need to know about such as feel, performance, stability and relaunch are scrutinised. With the odd exception, we conduct all of our reviews in the UK to give it that 'real world' edge.

CONCLUSION:

A summary of the highs and lows and how well we think the manufacturer has met their aims and if applicable, improved on their previous design.

KS OPINION:

For the modern kiter who hasn't got time to bugger about!

THE ROAD TO...:

This section gives a brief history of the three preceding designs of the product. We think it's important to keep an eye on just how far things have come to appreciate what the modern gear can actually do for you

DESIGNER'S CORNER:

Here we chat to someone from the brand who knows what's what about the new product and how they have achieved the improvements in performance that their adverts tell you about.

FEATURES:

We pick out three design features which we feel are unique to the product in the review

All makes good sense? Good. So back to the product on test this issue; versatile kites. This is an aggressive part of the marketplace, with many brands pitching their kite to suit '90% of the riders out there.' What was particularly interesting was looking back at how things were just three or even two years ago. The emerging full depower kites then were basic and simple designs that played it relatively safe in terms of performance, with the emphasis placed on achieving that depower. The refinements came very rapidly however, and despite what people may say, it is the refining process that delivers the sweetest kites to the rider, not the huge quantum leaps in design that can often have rough edges.

Although the three kites on test are radically different designs, we think at one point in their lineages they all experienced a moment where many of us thought, "That'll never catch on and next year we'll all be back to flying blah blah blah." Cabrinha's original Crossbow design inevitable received more of this than other kite since, the shockwaves which the original Waroo sent through chatrooms and internet mainframes invoked a slew of knee-jerk reactions of the limitations of this type of kite, and then there was F One's original Delta of which sceptics were initially unconvinced... But here they all are better, stronger and faster than before.



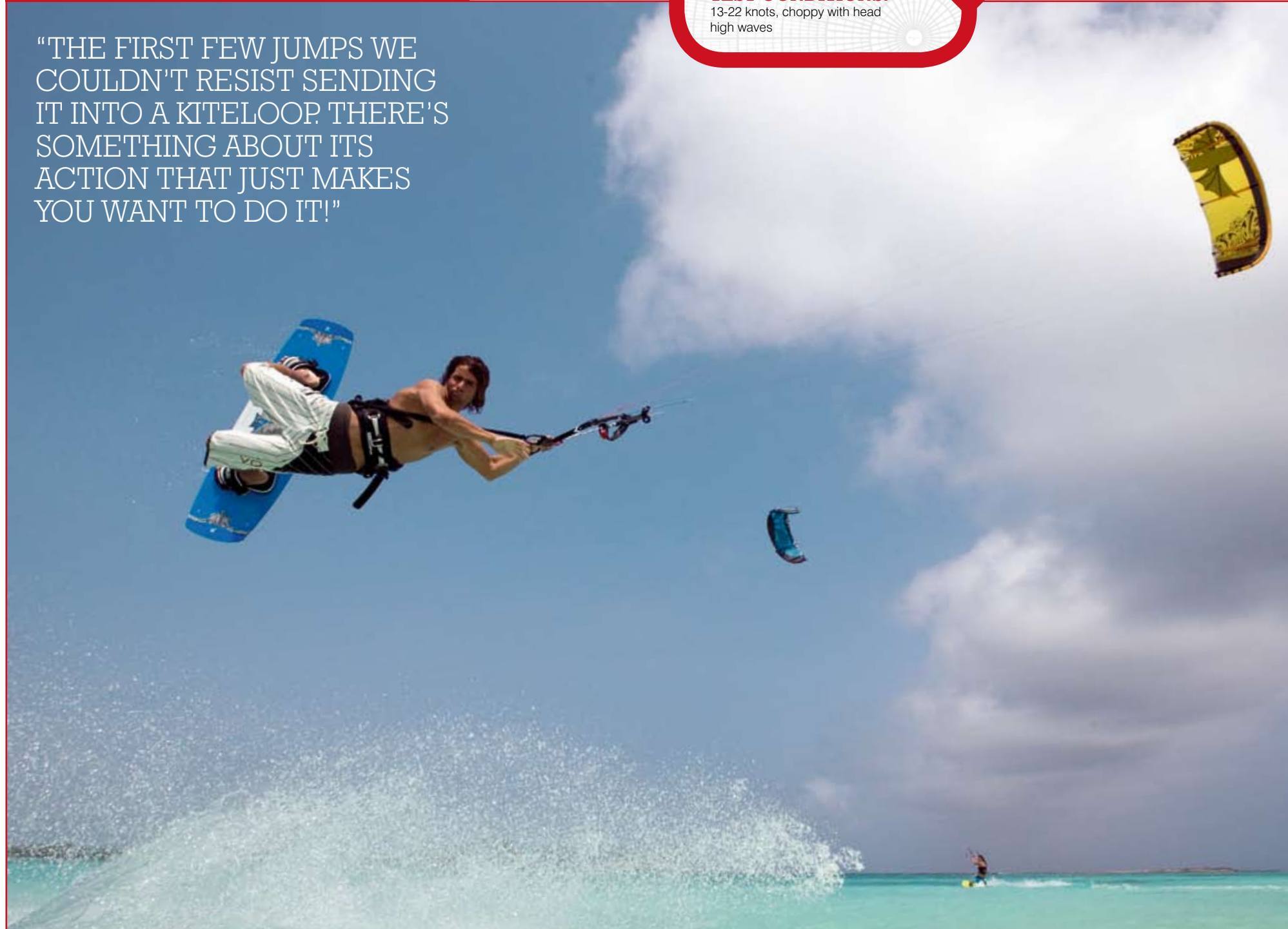
Joe Ruscito mowing the lawn with his waroo 09 | Photo by: Gavin Butler

FIRST TEST

BEST WAROO 9M

WWW.BESTKITEBOARDING.COM

"THE FIRST FEW JUMPS WE COULDN'T RESIST SENDING IT INTO A KITELOOP. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ITS ACTION THAT JUST MAKES YOU WANT TO DO IT!"



KS INFO:

Sizes: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20
Bar length: 45 OR 55 cm
Number of struts: 5
Rigging options: Custom tune ABC rear bridle gives five options

TEST CONDITIONS:

13-22 knots, choppy with head high waves

ABOUT THE WAROO 09:

The Waroo sits in that most crucial sector of the market of kites that are designed to meet the needs of as many people as possible, and Best have worked hard to maintain the accessibility of this kite. Now in its fourth incarnation, the Waroo's fans are legion with many having been a convert since day one.

SETTING UP THE WAROO 09:

You get 22 + 3m lines running from a well spec'd bar. Easy to grab landing handles sit just forward of the trimmer, and the double depower rope features a sliding stopper (that said the travel on the bar is easily met within arms reach). The bar itself has a moulded effect that your fingers just slot into and the 'big black' quick release cuff slots nicely into the underside of the bar when you unhook. As before, no one pump on the Waroo. At the kite end, the small Y piece trailing edge bridle can be fitted to AA, AB, BB, BC, and CC positions. AA gives the fastest, tightest turning with CC right at the other end of the spectrum. We ran the Waroo 09 mostly on the AB setting.

THE WAROO 09 ON THE WATER:

The first test conditions were maybe a touch light but the Waroo felt sure footed and pranced about the window briskly with no tugging on the front lines required to keep it in the sky. Still the kite managed to point keenly into the wind and created some pretty dependable pull as we cranked it up and down in the window. The low end of this 9m seemed a good match for other purportedly powerful kites of this size. In better winds, the Waroo was better place to show its accessible colours. The light but connected feeling bar pressure makes sending the kite a joy, and the fast flying action gives you a good whip off the water; it's a damned simple kite to jump with. The first few jumps we couldn't help but send it into a kite loop. There's something about its action that just makes you want to do it! The loops are rapid and parabolic; a good downwind hauling is followed by the kite flying smartly back upwards each time. The 'big black' quick release cuff locks nicely into the bar when you unhook for a trick, which eliminates any fuffing when you hook back in.

In some shoulder to head high surf, the Waroo towed us around effortlessly and at 9m, and the nimble turning rate allowed us to match the kite's pace to what we were doing on the wave. It's also a stable kite in the surf and this of course helps minimise the risk of undershooting it when you drop into to a wave on an onshore day. A few over ambitious moves saw us ditching the Waroo inside the surf zone, and after taking a couple of waves over it, it was still looking perky and relaunched with convincing ease.

CONCLUSION:

Riders who have felt in the past that the Waroo range of kites has helped them progress into, and past 'sticking point' tricks and styles should be delighted with the 09 version. The first thing we noticed was how easy and fun the kite loops were. If you're just stepping up to looping your kite, prepare to be pulling kite loop medleys every session with this thing. The locking QR cuff takes a lot of drama out of hooking in after unhooked tricks, and the bar doesn't feel like it wants to wrest itself from your grasp the whole time. The bar pressure and travel feels very natural allows the kite to be placed exactly where you need it rather than where you hope it just might end up. In fact that's the overall feeling of the Waroo; it's very instinctive to fly and really feels like it makes things you used to find quite difficult, rather quite easy after all.



THE ROAD TO...

THE 09 ROO

2006: The original Waroo was launched. Designer Pete Stiewe wanted to create the easiest to use SLE with the lowest bar pressure. Among the fundamental differences between the Waroo and the newly emerged bow kites was the direct rear line connection and 1:1 bar with no pulleys but long travel depower line. It was a quick turning kite moderate aspect ratio kite, but had a low powered turning style.

2007: In response for demand for increased performance, the 07 Waroo featured an extended aspect ratio giving improved upwind, jumping and hangtime ability. Best's thinner leading edge concept emerged here, and the kite had improved frontal stability. The front bridle was shortened, the rear bridle connection offered wingtip mounted 2:1 or direct connection allowing no bar pulleys and 2:1 depower from the rear bridle. It was a more aggressively handling kite designed to offer raw performance to progressing riders.

2008: The '08 was created to offer the raw performance of the '07 with the ease of use of the '06. The aspect ratio was placed between moderate and extended and further improvements on stability and weight reduction were made. The VP2 bridle was introduced, which actively trimmed the canopy profile under load. The improved turning speed came with the A,B,C custom tune bridle to adjust bar pressure, power delivery and turning speed.



FIRST TEST



FEATURES:

The Custom Tune ABC rear bridle set up gives you a multitude of options to play around with if you want. It takes seconds to change settings and you can tune your rig to anything from fast, tight powerful turning to slow and mellow.

The 'big black' QR cuff slots neatly into the bar when you unhook. Saves frantically scrabbling to hook in as the shore / obstacle / other rider comes up quick after a hot unhooked landing...

The front line landing handles run off of both front lines and allow you to flop the Waroo onto the deck unaided. They are kept in place with little Velcro straps and sit just forward of the trim straps.



KS OPINION:

PROS: Turns tight, fast and powerful but totally controllable. Great fun unhooked
CONS: Look elsewhere if you cannot live without one pump
IDEAL FOR: Riders who want to push past their current level into a more technical domain.

DESIGNER'S CORNER:

CRAFTING THE 09 'ROO AS EXPLAINED BY SIMON CLARKE

We've retained the moderate / extended aspect ratio and made further modifications to the weight distribution to further improve the light wind handling. The new leading edge arc shaping delivers a more C kite turning response (i.e. generating more power through turns) and the adjustments to the wingtip panel layout help improve tip drag. We've also revised the bridle geometry to provide a more linear depower travel, replacing the rising rate curve of the 08 design. The ABC custom tune rear bridle was retained, and the modified airframe geometry supports a wider range of turning and power characteristics. The relaunch has been improved by modifications to the kite's shape and optimizing the bridle attachment point placing. The 09 Waroo is designed to provide the widest range of performance and handling characteristics to suit any rider and any riding style.