

# Friendly Fire Niccolo Porcella

INTERVIEW BY CHRIS GILBERT / PHOTOS BY REDEARTHMEDIA.COM



Niccolo grabs Indy.



Niccolo travels in style.

- **Hey, Niccolo, how is it?** Good. Nice car. Does it have a supercharger? • **Uh... no. Where am I taking you?** Sounds like it does. I live in Makawao. • **How old are you and where were you born?** I am 15 and I was born on Maui, Hawaii. • **When you get your driver's licence, what kind of a car do you want?** Something that looks good. Probably a little car, like maybe a Mini. This is a nice car. Are you sure it doesn't have a supercharger? I can hear it. • **Uh... no. A Mini. Cool. Do you have any money saved?** No, but maybe by then I will have some. I pretty much use most of my money to travel for kiting, to the contests and stuff. It costs a lot to get to Europe. • **What would be your dream day of kiting?** My dream day would be having fun with my friends, with good waves, side or side-off wind, riding waves. Whatever. Just out with my friends, having as much fun as I can. That would be a good dream session. • **What's one word that describes your style?** I don't know. What do you think? • **It's your question. Go-for-it.** • **I guess that can be one word. Fluid.** I don't know. What would you say? • **Go-for-it works well. You sure have a go-for-it style. How long have you been kiting, and how has your style evolved?** I've been kiting for, I think, about three years now. It's changed a lot. Back then I was doing, like, big jumps, spins, whatever. Grabs. Then I got into the wakeboard tricks a lot, and started doing only that. Then in the last six months I started riding a directional board, with a four-line Naish X2 kite and the chicken loop. I'm totally into the contest style now. • **Dreaming about your kiting future, what would you like to do?** I don't know. Getting a fat barrel at Teahupoo [Fiji], or just pretty much having fun, being with my friends. Or maybe if I could be the world champion someday, that would be nice. Whatever. I'll go with the flow. • **You've been off the water with an arm injury from skateboarding. What have you been doing with your time?** I've been going to school, studying a lot, and doing some exercising, some running, paddling a surfboard. Turn right at the school. • **Since you don't drive, how do you get to the beach every day and what do you carry with you?** I have to hitchhike, but lately Jim Bones has been giving me a ride. I carry my six and my eight [metre] kites, my four-foot Naish directional, my bar, my harness, and some boardshorts. • **What does it mean to be part of the Naish team?** I think we have the best solid team. I'm good friends with all my teammates. Robby [Naish] is cool. The kites and boards rule. I'm really stoked. It's all good. I can't wait to get back on the water with you guys. You can drop me off right here. Thanks, Chris.

Niccolo Porcella tosses pie.



Naish International's Greg Drexler tied the knot on Maui this June with up-and-coming kite goddess Yuri Takimoto.

Cabrinha product manager Ian Ponting and his wife, Bonny, are expecting their second child in August. The baby will join two-year-old Kai.

Family of Rick Lof, a member of Maui's kiteboard community who was killed in a tragic shooting incident in Canada last year, recently visited Maui. They joined a large group of Lof's friends to celebrate his life. A memorial palm tree was planted

a year ago in his honour, and it has been thriving in the Kite Beach wind and sun ever since.

After being diagnosed recently with leukemia, Gaastra rider Sheldon Plentovich completed her bone-marrow-transplant treatment in Seattle, Washington. She's doing extremely well and hopes to be back on the water this summer.

Gaastra teammate Rebecca Wolthers is also back on the water following non-kiteboard-related shoulder and rib injuries.

F-One rider Shannon Best signed on with Sean

Ordenez's board company, S.O.S. At a recent photo shoot on Oahu, Maui kiteboarder Kathleen Forceville joined the Litewave team to promote and shoot the brand's new boards. Forceville joins Nina Johansson, Fabian Frick and David Turner as Litewave team riders. Check them out at litewavedesigns.com.

Jimmy Lewis and Dylan Grafmyre have teamed up for a production-board venture. Keep posted on jimmylewis.com.

Congratulations to Faction Kites for winning the Summer 2003 ISPO Brand-New Award for best innovative concept in the boarding industry. Faction Kites beat out over 120 different companies that applied from surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding, windsurfing and kiteboarding. Visit factionkites.com.

Unfortunately for Cabrinha rider Elliot Leboe, a rib injury plagued him during the Waddell event in California. This seems to be a common injury lately with the trend toward Kite Loops and huge hand-pass moves. There may be a rush on impact vests as riders begin learning these radical tricks.

Free-agent kiter Nina Heiberg recently signed with Roxy. Heiberg will be heading back to her homeland of Norway for two months with Wipika rider Joyeux.

Heiberg and Tracy Kraft recently went to Fiji, where the two went surfing, kiteboarding and foilboarding. Kraft has been getting more and more into photography, so keep an eye out for her photos in upcoming issues.

You now have many new choices for kiteboard instructional videos. *School Girls: Episode One* by Keta Films, *Kiteboarding 101* by Tronolone Productions, and *Boosting* by Premier Productions have all been released.

Niccolo Porcella is finally on the water again, following surgery on his wrist. It's nice to see this young ripper back at Kite Beach, since he's been jonesing to kiteboard for months.

Red Bull rider Adam Koch rode his gear on a one-and-a-half-hour crossing from Catalina Island to California, making him the first person ever to do so on a kiteboard. Check out reevolution.tv for footage. It's part of a series of action-sports shows on Fox.

If you miss attending some of the events around the world, no worries. Tronolone has had its production crew at most of the events. Most recently it caught the action in Waddell and Texas. In Texas it'll be working with Cabrinha rider Julie Gilbert and Wipika man Chuck Patterson while covering the Velocity Games. Stay tuned for show times.

Wave master Grafmyre had minor surgery on his knee but was back in the water in no time. He made his debut at the Waddell contest, where he showed that his ripping style works in cold water as well.

Flexifoil rider Fadi Issa and his girlfriend, Melissa, have left the Hawaii for another island far away—Fuerteventura in the Canaries. The couple has been traveling back and forth, but it looks like they'll be staying off the coast of Africa indefinitely.