

So You Want to Be In Pictures – Ed Dubois

Kite boarding and windsurfing make excellent photographic subjects, and most of us like to have pictures taken as we do what we love to do. So here are some suggestions about how to get the best photos of yourself when you're on the water from a photographer's point of view.

First a little background. I'm a long time sailor and photographer, having spent over 40 years around boats, water and photography. I mention this to indicate that I am familiar with the challenges of photographing any type of wind driven sport even though I'm not a kite boarder or windsurfer.



So here are some tips:

- ❖ Wear colours. Look in any of your favorite kiting publications and you'll see that the images published almost always are of people dressed colorfully. Even if your wetsuit/dry suit is black, slip on a rash guard and right away there's some colour to attract the viewer to the image. There's another reason for this too: modern autofocus cameras find their focus by identifying

areas of high contrast. If you're dressed all in dark colours the autofocus will have a much harder time locking in on you and the photographer will have a much lower rate of success._

- ❖ Look at the camera. When you're doing your tricks or just zooming across the water, look at the camera when you're being photographed. Pictures of the back of your head might be beautiful to your Mom (NOT) but they won't be images you want to hang on your wall. True, sometimes the photographer will capture a moment when everything comes together even if you're looking away. However, if you're working with a photographer (be it a pro or a friend) the images will be much better if you show your face. For the image I made of Alex Noke-Smith over Diamond Head we spent several hours. Alex kept doing the same jumps again and again until he felt he had the position right and I felt I had a good shot with good eye contact and facial expression. The same goes for this shot of Chris Glazier



- ❖ Smile. Your pictures will look better if you look like you're having a good time out there.
- ❖ Be prepared to work. If you really want to get some good shots of yourself be prepared to put in some time and effort. Expect to crash a few times in the process but keep at it if you want that special shot.



- ❖ Sign a model release if needed. For an image to be published in a magazine you will need to sign a model release that authorizes the photographer and the magazine to publish your picture. While this isn't required for newspaper and news reporting, magazines will probably require this. As an aside, the photographer will usually get paid for this type of publication but generally not very much. Typically magazine covers pay \$100 to \$200 dollars. For that the photographer has to provide a publication quality image which typically will involve several hours of work in addition to the time spent with you. Don't worry that someone is getting rich off your image: it just isn't likely to happen.
- ❖ Check the results. With digital photography the results of the photo session are immediately available to check how the images turned out. If you and your photographer aren't completely satisfied with the results, arrange to go out again to get what you both want.

So that's it. Have fun out there and your images will reflect that.