

June Kiteboarding in Cabarete

By Laurel Eastman

Kiteboarding is hot, Cabarete is THE spot, and June is when it's all happening! Event after event kicks off the best wind season of the year (July and August). Warming up with a special girls only ride, followed by the Dominican Nationals, and the spectacular finale of the PKRA (Professional Kite Riders Association) World Cup Tour – there is something for everyone!
Here is a recap of last month's action.



Robinson Vasques impressing the judges

GIRLS ONLY DOWNWIND RIDE

The top women kiteboarders in the world gathered in the North Coast of the Dominican Republic prior to the PKRA event to honor their friend and fellow

Organized by two of the Best Kiteboarding team riders - current world champion Kristin Boese and Cabarete's own Laurel Eastman - the women circled together on the beach, remembering their friends spirit and smile, tossed tropical flowers into the sea in her memory, and set off from in front



Audrey Meyer - the only girl competing

competitor Silke Gordlt in a girl's only downwind ride from Cabarete Bay to Encuentro Beach.

of Laurel's kiteboarding school in a friendly and fun downwinder. A star-studded occasion, the

top 4 women from last year's PKRA tour: Kristin (Best, Germany), #2 Bruna Kajiya (Best, Brazil), #3 Ania Grzelinska (North, Poland), and #4 Jo Wilson (Naish, UK) ensured that the action on the water was hot. Having this caliber of rider was a great inspiration to all the participants, who included the newly wed Mrs. Ben Meyer (formally known as Jill Cervi) and her wedding guests!

Silke died 5 years ago during a kiteboarding competition when two kites tangled and she was dragged onto the beach. Her death inspired the industry to develop many

advances in safety, like the quick release on the chicken loop, and through her friends memories and stories her spirit lives on forever!

DOMINICAN NATIONALS

The Dominican Nationals were held on Kite Beach from June 20th – 24th, the inaugural event for the brand spanking new "Association Dominicana de Kiteboarding" or ADK. The local talent in kiteboarding is



Finalists Luis Alberto and Emmanuel Rondon



Cabarete Kite Girls
Photos by Hege Holt