



# BABA

BALTIMORE AREA BOARDSAILING ASSOCIATION

January/February 2003

[www.windsurfbaba.org](http://www.windsurfbaba.org)

## BABA'S MID-WINTER PARTY

by Chuck Schnee

Our annual Mid-Winter party will be held at **Jeff and Linda Riach's** place on Saturday, February 15, 2003 kicking off around 6:30 PM and carrying on until Jeff and Linda throw us all out. OK, that's

**Saturday, February 15, 2003  
around 6:30 PM**

Please put it on your social calendar, and your windsurfing calendar, and your skiing/snowboarding calendar, and your wife's/husband's/girl friend's/boy friend's/significant other's calendar, and your kid's calendar - without delay.

Why? 'Cause BABA's mid-winter bash has always been a great get together. BABA's Marc Rosen, the ultimate grill chef, cooks the BABA supplied goodies. And even that is sometimes surpassed by the dishes that you all bring to the festivities. It has never failed to be a sumptuous feast.

Then there is the Riach's splendid home with pool table downstairs and host Jeff ready to challenge all comers at eight



ball. Hey, guys (and gals), he can be defeated. And there is plenty of room for spectators to cheer on the host,

or the challenger. VCRs abound so bring your windsurfing videos and get a carving jibe lesson while you savor your dessert. Or view some of the great videos of our Hatteras trips. There must be some good stuff in videotapes out there, what with the eight houses Fred Thomas secured for us last October.

Not to mention the raffle! We'll

have some sponsors' prizes for the assembled shredders (that's all BABA members present) who will have their names in the magic raffle hat. And, we'll be raffling off the WINDSURFING ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME! See page 6 for details on how to enter the BABA raffle for a windsurfing adventure in Jerioacoara, Brazil.

So, here's the deal. BABA will provide some hot stuff off the grill - Marc will do his thing - if you will bring a green salad, pasta dish, veggie, potato salad, dessert, appetizer, whatever (I don't really know about these things but it always turns out just terrific). BABA will have some beer and wine available, but do bring some of the stuff you like to imbibe (it can substitute for a dessert!). OK.



Daphne and Steve are going to print a separate sidebar with the directions to the Riach's place in Timonium. Just cut it out and stick it on your refrigerator (or on your spouse's forehead if he/she is a forgetful type (please notice the gender neutral orientation that this scribe has painfully learned!)).

If you have some friends who might be potential windsurfers, just bring them along. Our Clinic Director promises to give them the full indoctrination (unless you think that might scare them away!). Now you have the full scoop. We want to share with you our winter vacations, our latest gear acquisitions, and our plans for the forthcoming windsurfing season. (Yeah, I know, **Mark Weinman**, **Nick Bertolini**, **Fred Hylla** and some of the other guys sail in January and February.) But we'll still call it the "forthcoming season". So, just do it and we'll see you at the Riach's place. Hope you're having a great New Year.

Ciao



### Directions

Jeff & Linda Riach's  
12995 Jerome Jay Drive,  
Cockeysville, MD 21030  
(410) 785-3136

- From the Baltimore beltway, take I-83 north to the Padonia Road exit (second exit up from the beltway - about 3 mi.).
- Make a left (west) at exit light onto Padonia, go 1.8 mi. (couple hundred yards past Graul's Supermarket)
- Turn right on Cleghorn and go 0.3 mi.
- Turn left on Katesford and go 0.1 mi.
- Turn right on Michaelsford.
- After 0.5 mi. (about 100 yds. past Laurelford Court) go right at curved 3-foot high brick wall.

12995 Jerome Jay Drive, a white brick colonial, is the 4th house on left off this private drive. (If you go too far on Michaelsford you will come to Chamarral court.)

## BABA Steering Committee

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### Hatteras Coordinator

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## Avon 2003

By Fred Thomas, Trip Coordinator

### April 5 – 12, 2003

For the first time on an April trip, we have managed to rent all houses in one location, Island Creek. Last year we rented 5 houses. With the overwhelming demand this year, we have rented 7 sound front houses, the best of the best, for our week of fun, wind, and adrenaline rushes. Those familiar with our Island Creek trips know that these houses have the best launches and are the most spacious houses on the Sound: West Wind, North Wind, Island Sun, Island Blast, Island Breeze, Island Star, Island Sky. We did not rent any semi-sound front houses. As of January 14, 2003, there were only 4 rooms available (2 private @ \$400 for the week, and 2 shared @ \$225 for the week). Since there are no more houses to rent Island Creek, this is the last call for anyone who wants to go.

### October 11 – 18, 2003

We rented 8 houses last year and had planing winds every day. This year, the demand has apparently dropped, so we rented only 6 contiguous houses in Island Creek and gave up 2. There is still room for both accommodation levels (3 private rooms, 5 shared rooms). We did not rent any semi-sound front houses. However, with 2 less houses rented, I need to know of your reservation intention as soon as possible.

Please e-mail me at [fthomas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:fthomas@cms.hhs.gov) to reserve your place in the wind for either trip.



Our apologies to long time BABA Sponsor DaKine. Their logo was inadvertently left out of the November/December issue of BABA News.

## BABA Mission Statement

The Baltimore Area Boardsailing Association (BABA) is a network of Northern Chesapeake Bay windsurfers. Our purpose is to promote the sport of windsurfing through seasonal racing, instructional clinics, social events and group travel to windsurfing destinations. The club is an advocate for windsurfer access to clean, safe launch sites. Our events focus on an enjoyable social experience while developing further windsurfing skills.

For Membership information contact  
Ann Jackson at (410)315-8481 or [ajax.tmm@verizon.net](mailto:ajax.tmm@verizon.net),  
or any member of the BABA Steering Committee.

Membership and other club information is also available online at  
[www.windsurfbaba.org](http://www.windsurfbaba.org)

# Racing News

## Racing with BABA in 2003

by Tom Sargent, Racing Coordinator

Welcome to racing with BABA. Our 2002 race program wrapped up nicely with the annual banquet and awards party. For the coming season, we'll continue to provide you with the organization you've come to rely on as well as vary the scenery. This year we will have 9 events, 3 of those being combined MAS events. In order to qualify for the year-end awards and raffle, a racer will need to participate in 5 of the possible 9 events.

We'll start out in late April at Rocky Point courtesy of the Baltimore County Sailing Center. Then, in May, we inaugurate the premier Windsurfer Racing event at Mayo Beach Park in Mayo, MD, with a BABA / MAS race / party weekend. This will give every one an opportunity to not only check out the park for two days virtually for free, but to sample the sweet sailing to be had at that location as well. That one has the potential to be big.

But they keep on coming! In June we have two races, the first being The Second Annual Chester River Windsurfing Race, we missed the first one, hosted by Queen Anne's County Parks and Annapolis Wind. This will be a festival with learn to windsurf clinics, fun racing, food, and even a swap. We wind up June and July at the Gunpowder in time for those nice afternoon thermals. Take the month of August off to rest up for the Hart / Miller Island Round- ing in September. Here, we're invited by the Baltimore County Sailing Center to join their fleet in their annual race around Hart / Miller island with a corn roast afterwards. This is a long distance race with about 11 miles to cover. A fun event with plenty of chase boats to give you that secure feeling when you get past the point of no return. At the end of September we go back to Mayo Beach for the fall BABA / MAS. We end the season on October 5 back at the Gunpowder.

To pull this off, we need help from the racing community. Volunteering for registration, committee boat, and food prep, etc., is essential as well as required to qualify for the year-end raffle. Much

## BABA 2003 Race Schedule

BABA I	April 27	Gerry Brown Memorial Race at Rocky Point State Park, Essex, MD
BABA II	May 17	MAS at Mayo Beach Park, Mayo MD
BABA III	May 18	MAS at Mayo Beach Park, Mayo MD
BABA IV	June 14	Chester River Windsurfing Race at Stevenson, MD
BABA V	June 29	Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD
BABA VI	July 13	Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD
BABA VII	Sept 6	Hart/Miller Island Enduro at Rocky Point State Park, Essex, MD
BABA VIII	Sept 27	MAS at Mayo Beach Park, Mayo, MD
BABA IX	Oct 5	Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD

Stay tuned to BABA News and [windsurfbaba.org](http://windsurfbaba.org) for additional information and directions

praise and adulation is heaped on the folks who cheerfully volunteer. The volunteer sign-up sheet will be with the sailing instructions and membership application form. In the meantime wet sand your bottoms and hope for an early spring.



Mayo Beach Park - location for BABA/MAS combined events for 2003



## North Point - New Baltimore Area Sailing Venue

by Mark Weinman

The State of Maryland, DNR has recently renovated their park facilities in the Edgemere area of Baltimore County known as the North Point State Park. For spring and fall sailing this is a great launch

for winds with a southern bias. From the beach you can look across the Bay to Rock Hall and you can see clear down to the Bay Bridge. The point gets you pretty far out into the Chesapeake Bay, with a fetch all the way down to Thomas Point. This area can have very good bump and jump sailing or flat water behind the jetty. North Point seems to get stronger thermals than the Gunpowder River and the winds tend to stay filled in for longer periods of time.

During summer, the launch area is a public swimming beach. The water is clean and the bottom is sandy. I am not sure where sailboards can launch during the summer swim season.

Off-season however, is a different story. The ranger had no problem with us launching from the beach and parking is fairly close by. There is also a beautiful new information center with wildlife exhibits and photos of the old amusement park that used to be at the park site until the 1950's.

In addition to fishing, sailing and swimming the park has very nice hiking, and biking trails. Park admission is \$2.00.

**How to get there:** Edgemere is the area where Fort Howard and Beth Steel are located. Take 695 to Exit 42. Take North Point Blvd. to North Point Road. Follow North Point Rd. towards Fort Howard and turn left on to Bay Shore, which is the park entrance. Follow park road to the end.



## Almost April Fools Day Wave Bash and Hot Dog Roast

**EZZY Sails** presents the "Almost April Fools Day Wave Bash and Hot Dog Roast" on Saturday, March 29 at the Sailing Center at Rocky Point Park. The fun begins at 10AM and runs until 4.

Come sample hot drinks, hot dogs, and COOL SAILS. Events to include drag races and speed checks. Prizes will be awarded for the winners. See and sail the **2003 EZZY INFINITY and 2003 EZZY Wave Special Edition**. All rigging components will be available for you to use - including the **EZZY Skinny Mast**. (Please bring your own board and to insure proper harness line placement you may want to bring your boom too) This is a good chance to preview the new 2003 EZZY line-up before the East of Maui Swap Meet and Sale or your trip to Hatteras.

For additional information contact Marc Rosen [duckbite@qis.net](mailto:duckbite@qis.net) or 410-374-1230.

**Directions:** Baltimore Beltway (I-695) to Exit 36 for Route 702 South. Proceed on 702 and continue with its merge with Back River Neck Road. Stay on Back River Neck Road for 2.3 miles then make a LEFT onto Barrison Point Road. Make a RIGHT onto Rocky Point Road and drive until you enter the park. Ample parking is on your right and the Sailing Center is to your left.



**Petra Kanz**  
 Windsurfing Clinics  
 2003



## Classified Ads

### Cleaning out the trailer:

**Race Sails:** Gaastra Nitro3's: excellent condition, red white and blue USA team color scheme (masts also available):

10.4 - \$450 9.3 - \$425

**AHD Boards:** 2001 Diamond Formula 95 - \$850 Good condition, well cared for, 1/2" bag also available (\$125). 2002 G-Ride 63 - \$750 1/4" custom Lakes Bay bag also available (\$80).

**Kites:** 12.2 Takoon Akooba - \$400 (bar and lines additional \$100)

15 F-One Magic - \$650 (bar and lines additional \$100)

contact Sam Franck VA11@cox.net or 703.408.3699

### For Sale:

**NEW DaKine XL Waist Harness** (black) with back support straps and Reactor bar: \$80;

**2000 North Volcano 5.8 sail**, no cams \$250; **North mast** 430/21, 30% carbon \$150 **1996 Powerex Constant curve mast** 460/25 \$50 ;

**1996 World 5.5 Slalom Sail** \$95

Doug Kon 336/768-8568 or dougkon@triad.rr.com

### Wanted:

Beater mast for landsailing. 400 - 460/25. 2 piece. Contact Daphne at babanews@earthlink.net or 703/538-4388

### For Sale:

**'98 Mistral Superlight II** (with the good, easy to operate mast track), 2 dagger boards, 2 fins, one mast foot. Excellent condition, \$700 Lakes Bay bag to fit, \$150.

**'98 Bic Veloce 298** (137L) Excellent condition, 3 fins (1 weed), \$325. Lakes Bay bag to fit, \$75.

**Foot straps**, never used (RRD) \$6 each, \$10/pair

**EZZY demo sails**, all in excellent condition 2001 Wave SE's: 4.5 - \$270; 3.7 - \$270 2002 EZZY Infinities: 5.4 - \$340; 6.0 - \$345; 6.6 - \$355; 8.5 - \$390. Call Marc at (h) 410-374-1230 or (w) 410-502-DUCK or duckbite@qis.net

### Wanted:

For an art project --- looking for donations or to buy some **old windsurfing fins**: all types, preferably pointer fins (upright vertical leading edge) or 1st generation blade fins. Also looking for trippy old fins like the "football fin" and the "torpedo

## Winter Warriors



Above - December 1, 2002. Fred Hylla (l) & Mark Weinman at Rocky Point - 40 degree temps and 5.2 winds.

Below - Fred Hylla at Rocky Point - December 2. Both photos taken by Randy Ellis. Randy is a Canadian windsurfer and is a visiting professor at Hopkins.



fin" and the "fence fin". Let me know what you have in your used gear pile. Steve Sabia [sabia@kong.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:sabia@kong.gsfc.nasa.gov) or call: 301 464 5424)

**Classified Policy:** To place a BABA Classified ad, call 703/538-4388 or e-mail [BABAnews@earthlink.net](mailto:BABAnews@earthlink.net) Free to members, \$10 charge for non-members - no additional charge for multiple insertions. Ads will run for 1 issue and must be renewed by phone or e-mail. Next deadline is March 1 for the Mar/Apr issue..

AMERICAN  
**Windsurfer**

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**IWINDSURF**  
 .com

## Who's Game for a Real Windsurfing Adventure?

by Maureen Pritchard

Do you recall Eric Sanford's article in Windsurfing Magazine in May called "Lucky 7 - Best Places You've Never Been?" (Go to windsurfingmag.com and click on the travel, then international links to find the article.) Eric says that he thinks "the north coast of Brazil, from Fortaleza to the tiny beach village of Jericoacoara, offers the best windsurfing in the world."

At our mid-winter party on February 15, we will be raffling off a one week stay at Vila Bela Vista in Jericoacoara, Brazil. This package includes lodging for 2 for a villa in Jeri donated by Jodi Thopmson who runs Vila Bela Vista, and windsurfing equipment for 2 for the week, courtesy of Peter Hopley of Tico Winds. Peter operates this new rental shop right on the beach in Jericoacoara from July - December and continues his Lake Arenal, Costa Rica operation during the months of January - April. This package is valid for any week in 2003 between July 1 and Christmas. This happens to be the very best time of the year for windsurfing in the Ceara state of Northeastern Brazil. Average wind speed is 25-30 knots during these months. August and September wind speeds are usually 40 knots. Year round temperatures are 85-95 degrees. The "Washington Post Magazine" chose Jericoacoara as one the 10 most beautiful beaches in the world.

Those who have visited talk extensively about the beauty of the place and everyone says the only problem with Jeri is that you won't want to ever leave!

Jericoacoara is in a remote village accessed by helicopter or 4-wheel drive vehicles. The last 15 km on the way to Jeri is all via unpaved roads of soft sand and dunes. All the streets in town are sand - pure, soft white sand. While there are now a number of small villas and hotels and a dozen or so



restaurants, Jeri is a place with no banks, no ATMs, no street lights, no souvenir or T-shirt shops, no McDonald's or Dominos Pizza. Until about 15 years ago, it was an isolated fishing village with no contact with modern civilization. Building was permitted only in the village area to maintain the quality of the Environmental Protection Area. They say "take only pictures and leave only footprints." There is now an underground power supply, but the village remains unhurried and peaceful. If



you are the type of person used to luxuries provided in tourist resorts or need a place that would have every thing you could possibly wish for, Jeri may not be your cup of tea. On the other hand, if you are seeking an extraordinarily beautiful beach, with exceptional windsurfing opportunities and intense contact with nature, would enjoy taking a jacuzzi under the brilliant night sky - uncluttered by commercial lights - and have a spirit of adventure, it could very well be the trip of a lifetime.

Jeri offers a number of sailing options. For beginners or those who prefer flat water, there is Jijoca Lake, also known as Paradise Lake. It's a 15 km long lake with gently sloping banks, crystal clear waters and plenty of wind and sun. The lake has stretches with light chop for those who prefer a little more excitement. It's the ocean for which Jeri is really known in the windsurfing world. There's a sheltered bay for beginners or those who prefer slalom sailing. For those who prefer a little air or riding the waves, there's the area to the right of the bay and the open ocean. Waves generally don't exceed 6 or 7 feet, but when combined with the strong winds, there are plenty of opportunities for all sort of maneuvers.

Jericoacoara is located on the northeastern coast of Brazil. Transportation to and from Jeri is an expense to be borne by the winner. Most flights from the Baltimore/DC area require plane changes in either Miami or Atlanta and again in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Travel is usually on an overnight flight and takes approximately 18 hours to reach Fortaleza. Most people choose to spend a day or two in Fortaleza before traveling on to Jericoacoara. Apart from the many options of trips, hikes, sports like sandboarding and windsurfing, nightlife, etc. Jericoacoara has a peaceful, laid-back atmosphere and tranquility for those who just want to relax, lie in a hammock and read a book, or sip a cold beer while gazing at the sea. Life's rhythm in Jeri is naturally slower than normal. No one's in a hurry to do

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continued from page 6 anything, and it's contagious. If you come from a place where you're used to everything being done yesterday, you're truly in for a cul-



ture shock.

Check out a number of web sites with information about one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and see if you are interested in being included in this special raffle at the mid-winter party. We want to make sure that such a special offer is something the winner is likely to use. (Either call at 410 798-5091 or e-mail me at babasponsor@aol.com in order to have your name included in this drawing.)

The photos in this story are from Jodi's web site. Here are the links to a few web sites worth looking into. I'm certain there's more information out there for those who wish to do some investigating:

- [www.jericoacoara.tur.br/vilabelavista/](http://www.jericoacoara.tur.br/vilabelavista/)
- [www.jericoacoara.com](http://www.jericoacoara.com)
- [www.windsurfingmag.com](http://www.windsurfingmag.com)
- [www.ticowind.com](http://www.ticowind.com)
- [www.jericoacoara.org](http://www.jericoacoara.org)



**Jericoacoara Raffle**

BABA Members – If you'd like to be included in the drawing for the Jericoacoara, Brazil trip, **please contact Maureen Pritchard by Friday, February 14, 2003.** The drawing will be held at the BABA Midwinter Party on Saturday, February 15, 2003. You need not be present to win, just willing and able to embark on the windsurfing adventure of a lifetime between July 1 and December 25, 2003. The package includes one week's lodging at Vila Bela Vista with daily breakfast and windsurfing equipment for two people. Airfare, ground transportation and other meals are the responsibility of the raffle winner. Contact Maureen at 410 798-5091 or [babasponsor@aol.com](mailto:babasponsor@aol.com). Good Luck!



## Cabarete With Kids

by Dave Iseri

Cabarete is a town in the northern Dominican Republic and has a quaint 2 km long bay that is known to be a great windsurfing destination. Naturally I have been looking at it for a while. I thought this may be the get away my family really needs. Beach, sun, diarrhea! What could be more relaxing? So, acting on my primordial urges, I booked a vacation to take my family, with a one-year old and five-year-old, to Cabarete. All cynicism aside, we rate this adventure a success; however, one must have certain required elements:

- 1) A beach front suite that caters to families
- 2) Pharmaceuticals

Finding a place for families was not difficult. I did extensive Internet research and found many places on [www.hispaniola.com](http://www.hispaniola.com) and also through the major windsurfing vacation purveyors. What I found was what you would expect. If you go during hurricane season you will definitely get a good deal.

We settled on a package from Vela Resorts that included a two-bedroom condo on the beach at Palm Beach Condos and equipment for me. The accommodations were excellent; however, only the bedrooms had air conditioning. In addition, there was no television (I relied on short wave in order to get my news fix). Since we were in Cabarete on 9/11 I wanted to make sure all heck was not breaking loose at home. One of the owners was setting



the rooms up for cable TV to be installed shortly.

The rooms at Palm Beach Condos were of adequate size and the staff was excellent (ask for a ground floor apartment if you are going with kids). They also provide some initial provisions including beer,



soda, fruit, and a small bottle of rum. The small pool was just right and the gardens around the condos are beautiful and well maintained. Nannies are available as well as Dominican cooks.

Now to the sailing. From what I was told there had not been a good blow down there for weeks. When we showed up it was blowing 25 to 30 knots steady. The wind tends to blow from east to west, side-shore, and is typically calm in the morning and turns on around 2 in the afternoon. Since I had been traveling since 4 AM I did not get out that first day but the next four days consisted of identical wind conditions.

There are several shops in Cabarete to choose when selecting equipment. I choose Vela for convenience (they also have a no-wind rebate if you get skunked). Also available are Windsurfing Vacations (Bic Center), and Club Nathalie Simon. Vela offered F2 and JP boards and Neil Pryde sails. All the equipment was in decent shape. The swells were 4-6 feet and about 10 to 15 feet between. The staff at Vela recommended that I use a JP wave board because of the conditions (I never sail on a wave board). I found myself mostly swimming the first day because I was too impatient to set the board up correctly for me. The only positive result was a reality check on the conditions and a psychological boost that I was not going to perish in the sea. After the first quasi-epic day I tuned up the harness lines and boom height to fit and was able to sail without too much concern except for the rollers that were breaking. I was swamped by the break many times. A reef at the mouth of the bay provides real wave sailing conditions. I kept away from there and concentrated on trying to keep the board in the wa-

ter as opposed to flying from swell to swell, which is what you will do if you have too much sail or board (generally, I had too much sail). I got four decent afternoons. That turned out to be sufficient for this trip, after all, this was a family vacation. Kite boarding is huge in Cabarete with well defined areas for windsurfers and kite boarders. I found myself blown into the kite area once and did not get yelled at. I also blew out a sail there. I really have no idea how it happened but when I got back to the beach, the Vela employee indicated that the sail was already UV damaged. He proceeded to demonstrate the damage by piercing the remaining monofilm panels with his fingers. I bought supplemental insurance for equipment damage so I was covered. Definitely buy this insurance (\$30 USD). It gives you some piece of mind to just go out and go for it.

Other activities abound in the Cabarete area include mountain biking, canyoning, gambling, and trips to Puerto Plata to soak up some culture including the amber museum.

Now more about the travel aspects of this trip. You should fly into Puerto Plata.  
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Brooke, Kathy and Jasmine Iseri with new friend

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This will get you to Cabarete in 30 minutes by cab. The only obvious rule for diving appears to be “don’t kill anyone”. Kathy could not even look out the window of the cab on the ride from the airport due to the



Jasmine Iseri

constant “chicken” passing antics of the driver. Thinking to myself, “this man is a professional”, I let it go.

We ate breakfasts and lunches in the condo. The supermarkets were generally well stocked but the selection of meat was limited. We consumed bottled water all the time. I strongly suggest consumption of the local brew, Presidente. At 15 pesos per bottle (exchange rate was 18 pesos per USD) it was well worth it and it was decent quality.

Restaurant choices are exceptional at the beach including American style fare, an Irish pub, Thai, Japanese, Dominican, and German, among others. All of the eating establishments appear to be run by small owner groups and are smack dab on the beach with seating under palm trees. Our favorite was a Swedish-owned restaurant called “LAX” (short for relax). It had a huge diversity of food from sushi to pizza. But, what really is great is that they set up “sand conversation pit eating booths” on the beach and also would set out tapestries on the sand with low tables upon request.

Many of the chairs in LAX were made of broken windsurfing equipment including boom ends. As far as price, we generally spent less than 500 pesos (less than \$28 USD) including drinks and tip.

OK, there are warnings about drinking the water and eating fresh fruit in the Dominican Republic. Everyone in our family, except the one-year old had one day of illness. We have no idea what brought it on but we suspect some of the salad items. Really, this did not hamper the vacation except we had to visit the Pharmacia where no English is spoken.

Finally, a comment on the people. We met virtually no Americans while we were there but the local residents were generally friendly. There is a large group of interesting immigrants from Europe who provided endless interesting conversation. The Dominicans are quite friendly, although we found the beach hockers a little annoying.

On our last day, the woman who ran the condos gave the kids a hug and asked us to come back. We will try.

## Chinook Hydroshok

by Marc Rosen

If only Dr. Nick hadn’t prescribed all those drugs..

It is a foregone conclusion that if Elvis Presley had used the a Chinook Hydroshok when windsurfing he would have never sung “I’m All Shook Up”, and chances are, he would still be alive and vacationing in Cabarete. (He would also be the REAL “King” of the Cape). Ahh., but that’s history that never happened. However, using a Hydroshok really does smooth out the ride and makes for a very enjoyable session.

Chinook started marketing their Hydroshok a few years ago and I must admit that I thought it was a gimmick that would prove itself useless. I put off trying -and buying - one until my last trip to Hatteras with BABA in October. I used the Hydroshok on a solid 4.5 Thursday - a day that followed a few 4.5 to 6.0 days - and was immediately convinced that this was a beneficial addition to my rig. Almost all of the chop and bumps were eliminated from my arms as I sailed (and crashed) back and forth for several hours. I felt less arm fatigue than on prior days. My feet

and legs were taking up the bouncing but I felt “mashed potato” smoothness in the rig. Wow, if footpads were as effective in absorbing shocks as the Hydroshok , just think how many hours you could sail without any aches and pains.

According to Chinook, the Hydroshok not only attenuates boom shake, it also minimizes the pogo stick effect that your mast has on your board’s mast track, thus reducing the tendency for cracking in that vital area. The shock absorbing comes from a set of polyurethane bumpers that are held in place on a threaded rod. The tension of those bumpers can be varied with a thumb screw adjustment on top. I have also heard that it is a good addition if you are using huge sails - such as on Formula boards - to minimize pounding on those fragile decks. My use has been limited to sails no larger than 6.6 but this season I hope to try mine out on bigger rigs.

I was disappointed to learn that Chinook had discontinued production of the Hydroshok recently because of poor sales. It seems that very few people wanted to try it and it lay on dealer’s shelves, collecting dust. I regret that I waited so long before

purchasing mine, but I’m glad now. Chinook’s Dan van Hoos told me that there are several remaining in their warehouse and many dealers still have some in stock.

There are a few things to consider before trying or buying a Hydroshok. On the plus side, they are completely compatible with all Chinook extensions (that are used with regular diameter masts) and most “Chinook compatible” extensions from other manufacturers, such as Streamlined. However, if you sail with a skinny mast you must set you extension at least 15 cm or else the Hydroshok will not fit into the tube. The Hydroshok adds only 3 cm more to your mast height so you need to lower your boom accordingly. Keep in mind that it does not add to the length of your extension so you do not need to make any changes in determining luff length..

If anyone wants to test drive a Hydroshok just let me know and I’ll be happy to let you borrow it- with your rig or mine. Just don’t step on my blue suede shoes.

## A Windsurf Safari to Bonaire, NA

by Bill Anderson

Helen Van Gelder and I made a week long journey to the Caribbean Island of Bonaire in November of 2002, for an escape from winter and to make a final stretch to the 2002 windsurf season. This article is to share our experiences with the other BABA people and to give some ideas for your own escape plans.



*Helen Van Gelder*

Though this apparently has nothing to do with the name given the island, we found it 100% applicable to the conditions we found, as it would locate a spot on this earth that has cleaner, better air or more enjoyable breezes, is located at about 12 degrees north (about 40 miles off the Venezuelan coast) from Maraca Ibo Bay. The important thing is that the sun is always high in the sky here, above our spring and fall equinoxes, so thoughts of SPF numbers, shade and protection are in order at any season.

Of course, this is one of the factors that contribute to it being such a great spot to visit during our winter. The other factor is the trade winds. Though the weather data indicated that November (the cheap season) is not a windy month in Bonaire,

we found all days sailable, using Maryland criteria (enough to balance and steer). During the two light-wind days the light wind seemed to be caused by unstable air and the resulting thermals interrupting the steady trades, bringing brief showers and one or two thunder claps. The thermal clouds would give us several minutes of planning conditions while they passed over. The Sailworks Retro sails, furnished by Jibe City, had enough range to handle these gusty conditions with total aplomb. So, we were able to have some enjoyable sailing on these days too.

Lac Bay, on the east (windward) side of the island is the principal windsurf site for Bonaire. I doubt if a spot anywhere can be found with the combination of beautiful turquoise colored flat water, steady onshore wind and warm water and air temperatures, even shallow water on the southern half of the bay, that would make for a better windsurf site. Lac Bay even has ocean swells on the north end, where the water turns a beautiful deep blue with the increasing depth, and breaking waves outside the reef. Ernst Vliet, owner of Jibe City, said that in the windy season, the waves are over mast high. No thanks.

The quantity, selection of equipment and conditions at Jibe City were quite good. This could be another story during a more popular time as we almost had the place to ourselves. There were only sailors along locals, at a given

upcoming free style open, to be held at Lac Bay. We had a good exhibition of maneuvers to watch, including flat water back loops, jump jibes, some with subsequent fin first 360's and 720's and other such high end stunts. This went on every day that had sufficient wind. What a show.

The atmosphere of Bonaire is cool and laid back (even extending to the many dogs that are allowed to roam free over the island). This is accentuated at the Lac Bay Apartments and Con Tiki Restaurant and Bar, where we stayed and at Jibe City along with its Hangout Beach Bar. What a pleasure it was to tire yourself out sailing and then go in to the Hangout to rest while watching the nude (an au-natural club is adjacent to Jibe City) and semi nude beauties on the beach and water while having lunch or sipping a favorite cocktail. This, along with the friendly atmosphere of the Hangout and Jibe City, all while being caressed by the warm trade winds, make for a spot as close to heaven as is possible here on earth.

O' why did I have to leave?



*Bill Anderson*



# BABA 2003 Schedule

- Jan 25 - Feb 2** **BABA Winter Trip to Lake Arenal, Costa Rica** contact Tony Litwak: LitwakA@aol.com
- February 14** **Deadline for entering the BABA Raffle** for the Windsurfing Adventure of a Lifetime (see page 6 for more information)
- February 15** **BABA Mid-Winter Party** at the home of Jeff & Linda Riach AND drawing for The Windsurfing Adventure of a Lifetime
- March 29** **Almost April Fools Day Wave Bash and Hot Dog Roast Sponsored by Ezzy Sails** Baltimore County Sailing Center at Rocky Point contact Marc Rosen 410/374-1230 or duckbite@qis.net
- Apr 5 - 12** **BABA Spring Hatteras Trip** contact Fred Thomas 410/692-5409 or FThomas@cms.hhs.gov
- April 27** **BABA I/Gerry Brown Memorial** at Rocky Point State Park, Essex, MD
- May 17** **BABA II/MAS** at Mayo Beach Park, Mayo MD
- May 18** **BABA III/MAS** at Mayo Beach Park, Mayo MD
- June 7 & 8** **Petra Kanz Longboard Clinic**, Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD contact Chuck Schnee (410)592-7681 or cschnee@comcast.net
- June 14** **BABA IV - Chester River Windsurfing Race** at Stevenson, MD
- June 29** **BABA V** at Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD
- July 13** **BABA VI** at Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD
- July 26 & 27** **Petra Kanz Freestyle Clinic**, Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD contact Chuck Schnee (410)592-7681 or cschnee@comcast.net
- September 6** **BABA VII/Hart/Miller Island Enduro** hosted by the Baltimore County Sailing Center at Rocky Point State Park, Essex, MD
- September 27** **BABA VIII/MAS** at Mayo Beach Park, Mayo, MD
- October 5** **BABA IX** at Gunpowder State Park, Chase, MD
- October 11 - 18** **BABA Fall Hatteras Trip** contact Fred Thomas 410/692-5409 or FThomas@cms.hhs.gov

More great BABA events are in the works for 2003, so stay tuned to BABA News and windsurfbaba.org for updates.



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we are open or not! Still not convinced? Just talk to the long-time BABA members who have stored their prize possessions with us for years!

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## Windsurfing Camps

Our Windsurfing Kids Summer Camps begin June 16th. These camps run Monday - Friday and kids can sign up for as little as one week or as many as six weeks. Here's the best part: Round-trip transportation is provided from just about anywhere in or around Baltimore at no charge! Last year, we got more than four hundred kids hooked on windsurfing and many of them are returning to our camp again this summer! So, if you know of any kids age 9 to 16, who might love windsurfing the way you love windsurfing, hook them up with us and we'll hook them on your favorite sport! Just imagine if you would have had the opportunity to start sailing at that age!!!!

(These camps always book to capacity - call us today! - 410-666-WIND)



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