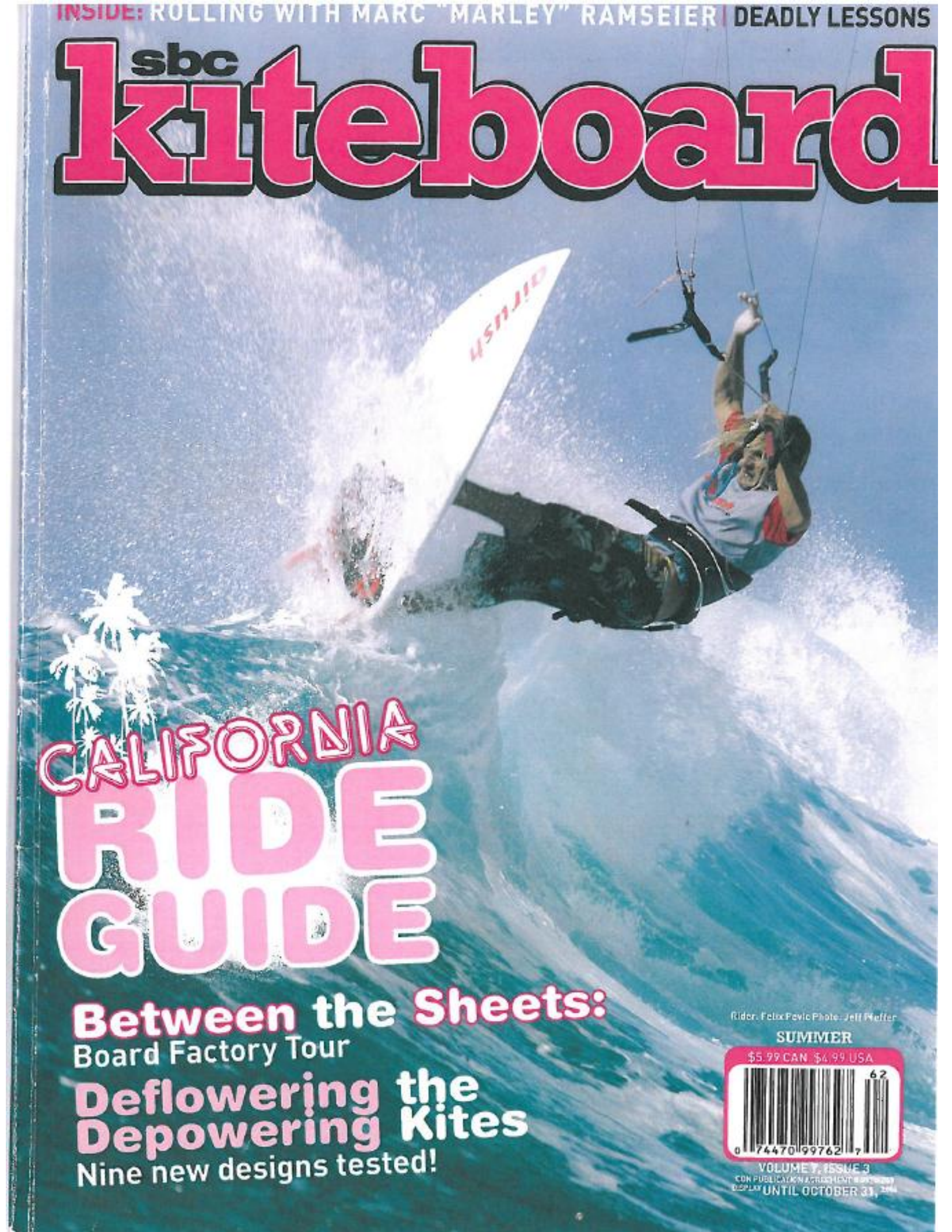


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# TEAM RIDERS

Here are a couple of East Coast girls that their team managers want us to hype.

## CLARISSA HEMPEL

**LOCAL BREAK:** Miami, Florida

**ORIGINS:** Brazil

**ACCOMPLICES:** Miami Cabrinha crew—Todd Greaux, Kent Marinkovic, Gary "The Phat Cobra," Mike Minichiello

**BEST RESULT:** Second, Tampa Bay Race 2006

**ROLE MODEL:** Wonder Woman

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

**CONTEST RIDER:** Yes

**WAKE STYLE:** Sure

**WAVES:** Of course

**ON THE RADAR SCREEN BECAUSE:** Hempel is up for anything. After traveling the world and kiting for the past three years, she is back stateside with loads of experience under her belt. Hempel is as hot off the water as she is in the water. Watch out, boys. Hempel is not a timid girl; she rides wearing a Brazilian thong.

—Todd Greaux, Cabrinha/ASI team manager



Clarissa Hempel flies over Cat Island in the Bahamas. Guido Fijack photo

## MELISSA GIL

**LOCAL BREAK:** Miami, Florida

**ORIGINS:** Costa Rica

**ACCOMPLICES:** Eduardo and Irene Owen, Lock Pirie, Tim Barber

**BEST RESULTS:** First, 2006 Jupiter Kite Invasion; first, 2005 Texas Red Bull Qualifier; third, 2005 Kite for Girls at Crandon Park; first, 2006 Kite for Girls boardercross

**ROLE MODELS:** Damien Leroy, Lock Pirie, anyone who is always smiling and enjoying life

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

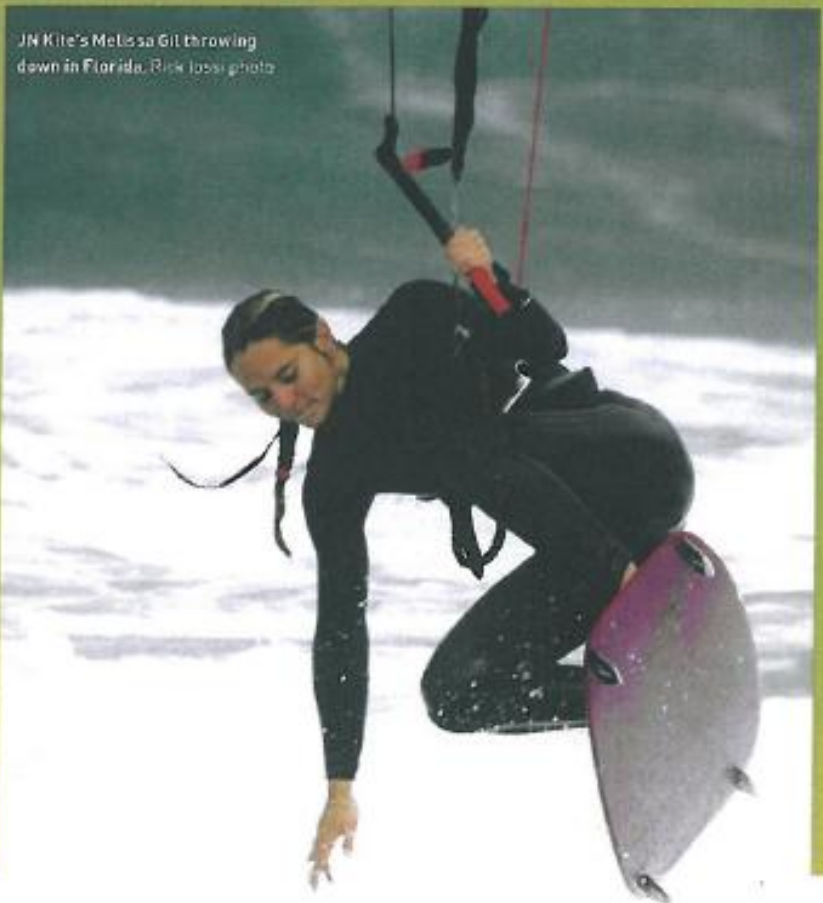
**CONTEST RIDER:** So far it's been fun

**WAKE STYLE:** Yep, got to

**WAVES:** Of course, it's the best

**ON THE RADAR SCREEN BECAUSE:** Gil was raised in Costa Rica, and although she lived in the mountains away from the coast, that didn't stop her from spending every second she could at the beach. Gil loves the ocean and says there is something about it that gives her peace and happiness. After coming to Miami to study, she was introduced to kitesurfing and was hooked. Gil could be found kiting every chance she got before and after class. She successfully finished college with honors in marine biology. Gil is a great rider. She never wants to come in off the water, whether she's kiting or surfing.

—Damien LeRoy



JN Kite's Melissa Gil throwing down in Florida. Rick Jossi photo