

## LONGRIDER

"back to the new roots"

volume: 180 lts  
size: 340 cm x 70 cm  
fin: MFC Freewave 34 + long algeier daggerboard  
fin box: power  
weight: 14 kg (+/- 6%)  
Technology: Single shot Glass /EVA Deck



**Roberto Ricci proudly introduced on his 2008 range the LONGRIDER, a brand new longboard concept mixing the performance of a freeride board with the accessibility of a beginner board. Going back out windsurfing with the same feeling we had in the past, with the advantage of modern technology!**

The LONGRIDER is a board developed to suit the tasks of all level windsurfers who wants to cruise in non planning conditions or just blast in light and medium wind conditions.

The accessibility is guaranteed by a generous length of 340 cm, a width of 70 cm and a volume of 180 litres. The dagger board adds to Longrider stability and upwind capability in light wind conditions. Useless to say, the full EVA deck gives great comfort and pleasure of riding in every condition.

The characteristic Longrider's step tail has a double rocker section: the shorter section allow to reduce the wet surface in planning conditions and is ideal for stronger winds, while the longer tail section allow to use all the board's and rails length, so it's ideal to give stability and upwind performances in light wind conditions. The thin rail shape gives free feeling in manoeuvres.

The Longrider is manufactured in a **single shot glass technology** that makes the board lighter, stiffer and more reactive to the rider inputs, giving to the planning sessions the typical sound and feelings of riding a glass custom board.

The result: a fantastic longboard that keeps the "compact" feeling of a shortboard, being a very accessible board to everyone. Also a great board to be sailed "retro" style in the waves!



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### Design features

01. Step tail gives to Longrider a double rocker section, reducing wet surface in planning condition and giving to the longrider longer rails in non planning conditions.
02. The nose of the board is Malibu style with characteristic soft full EVA deck, so ideal to play with fluid elements or with family.
03. Rails are thick, soft with Eva deck that designs a perfect TUE line. On the Step Tail area rails become thin, to give free feeling in manoeuvres.
04. The full EVA deck gives to longrider soft comfort and allows great grip all around the deck also during old school rail riding.
05. The long algeier daggerboard is easy to use, giving to longrider more stability and upwind performance in non planning conditions. With a simple foot input the dagger board disappears, leaving the board free and alive in planning conditions.
06. The Longrider features many footstraps position, from external for advanced riders to very inboard inserts to suit beginners needs.





## EXOCET KONA ONE

This is the original Kona that was introduced three years ago. It's advertised as "a stable and manoeuvrable board that has natural wave abilities".

**Character & Performance:** In light winds the Kona glides very cleanly through the water, railing well to windward as you stand on the boxy rails with the daggerboard engaged to cruise upwind (it points higher than any board on the test). Indeed, with its high level of vee under the front straps the board will actually happily cruise upwind without the daggerboard.

The large amount of board in front of the mast makes tacking easy. Gybing, however, is a bit more technical as the board doesn't pivot on the tail as snappily as some shorter boards. This does mean that it tends to keep more speed through the turn, albeit through a wider arc.

As the wind picks up, the Kona accelerates fairly slowly onto the plane (compared to the shorter, wider boards on test). We found that the sail needed to be sheeted out slightly in order to lose pressure on the daggerboard and disengage it. Once planing, the board frees up and the effect of the duck-tail is clearly noticeable, making the board feel more alive and turny than you might expect from something of this size. Despite its length and volume, it is actually surprisingly controllable in rougher water: the extra weight helps hold it down, as does the vee in the underside. It can also be carved surprisingly well around a turn (for such a big board), and the large tail gives you plenty of room for clumsy footwork. In waves the Kona can be manoeuvred fairly well, but a lot of input and energy is required from the rider to get it into the right place. The lack of a single back strap option means that any riding has to be done with the back foot out.

**Fittings:** The deck and rails of the board are covered in soft, non-slip EVA – as well as making the board comfortable for beginners it makes railriding far less scary. The daggerboard is non-removable, fairly stiff and protrudes 62cm. The fin is a Kona 46 and fairly freeridey in shape; those learning to beachstart should use something a little shorter. (A screwdriver with a very long shaft is needed to change the fin, due to the very thick tail.) There are plenty of well thought out footstrap positions, and our test board was supplied with DaKine Primo straps.

The board is fairly heavy at 15.5kg, but balances well on the daggerboard pedal when being carried.

**Popularity:** The Kona was enjoyed by all, partly because of the novelty of sailing it, but most were surprised by how well it performed considering its size.

**Strengths:** Light wind performance and upwind pointing.

**Weaknesses:** Manoeuvrability and weight.

**Overall:** A great all-round longboard that can be used in pretty much any windstrength, and thus great for any half-decent sailor who wants to get out there whatever the weather. The best cruiser in the test due to its very handy upwind performance and comfort, and for this reason also could work as a one design racer. It was actually our least favourite in the test for throwing about, so take this whole waveriding / back-looping marketing strategy with a major pinch of salt. The Kona is simply a nice all-round longboard.



## RRD LONGRIDER

This is RRD's one and only longboard, marketed as having "the performance of a freeride board with the accessibility of a beginner board."

**Character & Performance:** In light winds, the RRD has a very lively and playful feel. It cruises upwind well with the daggerboard engaged, although not pointing quite as high as the Kona. Upwind performance can be improved slightly by using a larger fin. It reacts very well to footsteering and can be tacked very swiftly. Gybing, while still not being as snappy as the shorter boards in the test, can be done around a shorter arc than the Kona.

Being long yet light, the board really comes into its own as a light-wind freestyle machine. It's definitely the easiest board on test to railride, but also great fun to put a smaller rig on and practise your sail-spinning tricks.

As the wind increases, it's fairly easy to disengage the daggerboard and the board eases onto the plane quite early. Once planing, the RRD's pretty lively underfoot (for such a big board). Being very flat, it is a little scary in choppy water as there's a lot of nose to bury! "It's like trying to tame a wild beast" (Jon Wilburn).

The RRD seems to respond best to nice, gentle carve gybes, as it has a tendency to straighten up again if you try to carve it too hard. In waves, being so long it requires a lot of effort to get into the right place. Lacking a back strap means that any waveriding has to be done with the back foot out.

**Fittings:** The entire deck and rails are EVA covered. The daggerboard is easy to move and is removable. It protrudes 58cm. The fin is a (small) 34cm MFC in a freeride shape. The board has a lot of footstrap positions, including very inboard beginner inserts. Our test board was supplied with RRD footstraps by DaKine, which were well padded and comfy.

The board was one of the lightest and easiest to carry on the test, balancing well on the daggerboard pedal.

**Popularity:** It was one of the favourite boards on the test, enjoyed by all for its playful feel.

**Strengths:** Ease, manoeuvrability and freestyle in light winds.

**Weaknesses:** Control in rougher water states.

**Overall:** Great for anyone wanting a longboard to cruise around on and enjoy primarily in lighter winds.