

SAILING HIGH ON THE SEAS

It's quick, it's slick and it has plenty of attitude... dingy sailing just got hydrofoils and more extreme. This is Bladeriding.



'When you take off everything goes totally silent. It's eerie'

Buy these...

1 Bladerider X8 US\$18,000

www.bladerider.com.au
The fastest moth in its class, the X8 is the daddy. Its ultra-narrow woven fibre hull weighs only 32kg when fully kitted out, and its painted waterline is instantly recognisable as it (literally) flies past.



2 Waterbuoy US\$17

www.water-buoy.com
The Waterbuoy is a key-ring designed to inflate seconds after it is submerged. With a 24-hour inflated lifespan coupled with flashing lights, it can support up to a kilo at the water surface. Your valuables are now lost-proof. In theory.



3 Suunto Yachtsman US\$280

suuntowatches.com
A built-in barometer and electronic compass make it a breeze to navigate through any conditions, and the Yachtsman also has multiple race time functions and it's built to weather high-speed wipe-outs.



4 Rash Vest US\$20

www.gul.com
Stretchy lycra wraps itself around you like a second skin – not exactly flattering, but with factor 50 UV protection, this extra layer works to protect you from harmful rays, ideal for shielding you from that ferocious Middle Eastern sun.



Back from his first Moth World Championships, sailing rogue Chris Graham tells us how, with the addition of hydrofoils, a new breed of sailing is making waves in the world of sailing.



BEACH BABY

I moved to the UAE when I was two and lived on the beach. By the time I was five there was nothing else to do but sailing. So I did. I love everything about the sea, except the big money men who can drive their powerboats.

EVOLUTION

Moth sailing has traditionally been for people wanting to step down from the demanding Olympic classes, but with the development of hydrofoils it has become one of the more demanding classes both physically and mentally. The addition of hydrofoils has created minimal friction between boat and water, allowing the moths to literally fly over the waves.

LEARN TO FLY

Nowadays, moths are all about speed. These things are fast; the current record is clocked at 27.9 knots (52kph). Although what really gets people hooked is the foiling. When you are sailing there is a lot of noise from the hull touching the water, but when you take off everything goes silent. It's eerie.

ATTENTION SEEKERS

Bladerider racing is turning all sorts of heads. Big acceleration and crashes combined with very fast manoeuvres make it close, fast and pretty full on. But don't let a little bit of hard work put you off – with a bit of tuition and a bit of swimming most people can sail a moth. I've got a lot of people foiling.

PERFECT CONDITIONS

The conditions in Dubai are excellent for moth racing, the water is warm, the breeze is steady and with the Dubai Offshore Sailing Club hosting the World Championships next year, the popularity of Moth sailing in the region is expected to grow.

Cast off...

Want to get your blade on? Here's where...



Dubai Offshore Sailing Club

www.dosc.ae
Hosting the largest fleet of hydrofoil moths in the region, DOSC is your first stop should you choose to test your sea legs out.



Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association

www.kosaq8.com
At the forefront of promoting sailing in Kuwait, get in touch for lessons whether you're a beginner or eye-patched and peg-legged.



Abu Dhabi Sailing Club

www.abudhabisailing.com
Take advantage of the flat water and good breeze at the only sailing club in Abu Dhabi as you carve along the Corniche in style.