

## Archive for October, 2006

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### [What the hell is going on?!](#)

Monday, October 30th, 2006

I don't know about everyone else, but Maui weather this month has got me wondering what the hell is going on. We've definitely seen an atypical October this year on Maui. Trade winds usually predominate, but we seem to be back in a pattern of very light northerly winds again. I watched the wind cams and Kahului sensor closely throughout the day yesterday. The airport was showing promising numbers, 20 and above, but the wind cams looked like crap - barely a whitecap visible anywhere. By 2:30 I decided enough was enough. It was time for a road trip and visual recon.

Arriving at Kanaha we found a crowded parking lot and lots of people who had come off the water - none of them with anything good to say about the sailing. Speedy, who is about my weight, went out on his 6.2 and big board and that wasn't enough. Where does that leave me with 5.7 as my biggest sail? Todd who went out on a 6+ race sail, told us it looked tempting but we hadn't missed anything. Herbert, from Germany or Austria or some other Germanic speaking country told us we'd be better off uncorking a bottle of wine than bothering to go out. Hmmm. What to do? We took Herber's advise. Mind you there were lots of people trying. There were waves. But the wind was so onshore and so light, that very few found it worthwhile.

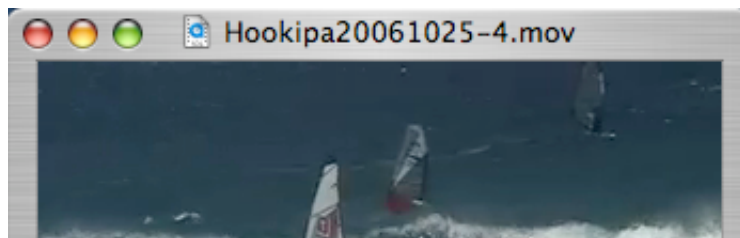
A new day dawned today, and with it fresh optipism for better conditions. Alas, it wasn't meant to be. I stopped by Kanaha around 12:30 on the way to a business meeting, feeling put upon for having to go to a meeting on a big surf and potential wind day. After stopping at Kanaha though and seeing the light wind and Antoine Albeau and Micah Buzianus pulling out their big sails and fat formula boards, I no longer felt like I was going to be missing a sailing day. Sure, the waves looked sweet, but this was surfing weather, not windsurfing weather. My better half stopped by Kanaha later in the day to witness several Kanaha regulars taking one reach out and back and calling it quits, thankful to get back to where they launched. The wind was apparently uber-squirrely, shifting directions faster than a media-sensitive politician.

That said, I think Hookipa might have faired a little better the last few days than Kanaha. I heard from Speedy, who had stopped by Hookipa, that a few of the big names (Robby, Jason, Levi ...) were out in mast high + on 5.0s at Hookipa, and the sensor there today was reporting some decent wind. With the PWA event coming up next week, all the pros and pro-wanna-be's are out at Hookipa whenever a butterfly farts and with the big swell running right now, it may not be the best sailing venue for a lot of mortal folk.

Forecast is looking pretty spotty this week for our beloved tradewinds. Looks like we might be in another light wind pattern through this week. With a big swell though, there may be enough incentive to venture out on big gear to do the slog-n-surf thing. Probably just depends on how desparate you are and what other committments you have going on. Good night and good luck.

### [Hookipa Video](#)

Sunday, October 29th, 2006



[Hookipa October 25, 2006 #4](#) (QuickTime, 5.4 MB. Contains audio track, so if you're viewing this at work, turn down the volume).

Last of the video from the other day at Hookipa.



## [Still More Hookipa Windsurfing Video Action](#)

Saturday, October 28th, 2006



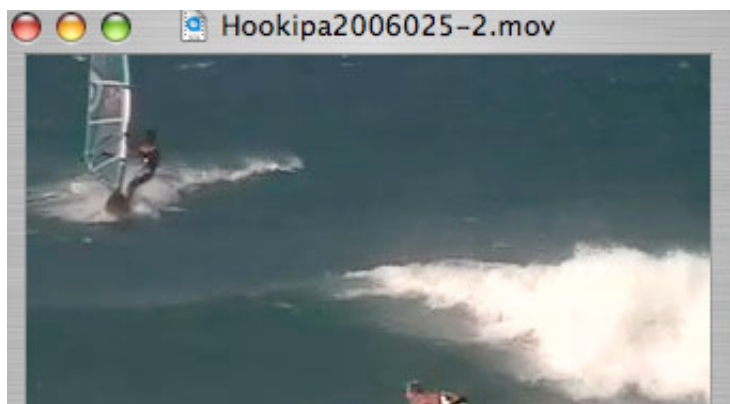
[Hookipa October 25, 2006 #3](#) (QuickTime, 6.7 MB. Contains audio track, so if you're viewing this at work, turn down the volume).

More video from the other day at Hookipa. This one features Jason Polakow a couple of times going for some wave 360s.

Not sure what happened with the wind yesterday. It was pretty light again, not sure if it was sailable. Probably borderline for me with my gear, so I opted out of it. Looks lightish today too, but it may come up at Kihei. Tomorrow might be more sailable as a shear line pushes down from the north west it might tighten the pressure gradient and give us a bit of a boost the next couple of days. Big north swell forecast to start arriving later today or tomorrow too.

## [More Hookipa Video](#)

Thursday, October 26th, 2006



[Hookipa October 25, 2006 #2](#) (QuickTime, 7.5 MB. Contains audio track, so if you're viewing this at work, turn down the volume).

You asked for it, more video from Hookipa yesterday. So here ya go. Check out how low Robby lays down his sail in his bottom turns. He's got to have the sweetest, most aggressive bottom turn out there. Way cool!

I'm not sure what happened today. The Kanaha sensor is dead so we're having to rely on the airport and



Hookipa sensors plus the windcams. Wind was looking pretty light most of the day, but I broke free from work in the late afternoon to go check things out since the cams looked somewhat promising. Got to Kanaha around 3:30. There was light wind way the hell and gone outside, but super light inside. Even the pros testing race sails weren't really moving. It looked a bit windier upwind (doesn't it always) so we headed up to Sugar Cove to check things out there. Basically the same scenario, helluva long swim through waist high shore break to get to any kind of wind you might hope was enough to get a waterstart in. Just didn't look worth it.

Looks like we've got another light wind period on tap. Wouldn't completely rule out sailing, but winds are looking to be a bit lighter the next few days.

## [Hookipa Video Fix](#)

Wednesday, October 25th, 2006

A spectacular day of windsurfing here on Maui today. Wind and waves again, and instead of the hazy filtered sunshine of the past few days, it was full on blue skies, bright and sunny. Just a little extra bonus. I don't know about others, but sailing with the bright sun, makes it extra fun here - intensifies the blue and aqua colors of the water, the greens of the palms on the beach and Haleakala in the distance.

Winds were about the same today as the last few days, 5.0 and really east. Waves were a bit smaller and also had more east, wind swell to them. I decided a change of pace was in order today and caught the lunch session from 11:30 to 1:00 before the crowds showed up at Kanaha. It was great only sharing Uppers with a couple other guys.

Had an errand to run in Haiku so I stopped by Hookipa and shot a little bit of video. Couple of big names out, including Robby Naish and Jason Polakow. Here's a short, little [40 second video fix](#) (QuickTime, 2.8 MB) from today to get an idea of the conditions. More to come in the next few days.

## [Three-peat](#)

Tuesday, October 24th, 2006

Another day of wind and waves very similar to the last two. Wind was mostly in the 5.0 range for guys, though there were a few periods this afternoon at Uppers when I was thinking a 4.5 would be better. Waves are on the decline and getting a bit more east wind swell into the mix. Lowers looked a lot smaller today than the previous two days. Uppers still had some big sets coming in, especially up towards Camp One and they were really clean and glassy up there, but down at Uppers they were slightly less clean and readable than the last few days, due to the wind swell I believe. After 2+ weeks of no sailing and 3 days in a row of wave sailing, my arms and legs are starting to feel a bit trashed. I think they'll have to endure at least one more day. Sounds like wind tomorrow then backing off a bit maybe later in the week, but it might still be sailable.

## [2 Days in a Row!!!](#)

Monday, October 23rd, 2006

I'm beginning to feel spoiled. After such a long wind drought, two days in a row of wind and waves seems like epic conditions. Today was much like yesterday, a bit smaller in the wave department and quite a bit stronger in the winds department at times. Waves at Uppers were still in the logo-high size and larger at times. I sailed exclusively at Uppers today, but as I was derigging I saw a beautiful logo-high set roll in at Lowers. Lowers can

be such a gorgeous wave - this one looked like a super-clean, glassy, long ride. Whoever scored that set got an epic ride (this was probably around 4pm).

Winds on average were a bit stronger today. I arrived at Kanaha around 2:00 to find Speedy just getting off the water. Great! A personalized sailing report from someone I can trust. He said it was a toss-up between 4.7 and 5.0. Looked more towards the 4.7 end of the scale to me so that was my call. That was pretty much about right for the first half hour or so, pretty wound, but it was nice to have the power to get through the big sets and the light air in the troughs. Around 3:00 though the wind grabbed a gulp of energy drink and bumped things up a notch or two though and soon my 4.7 was way too much and I found myself getting my ass wooped. Couldn't depower on the waves at all and found that was no fun on one particular big set so it was time to head in, tail between my legs. Soon the beach was crowded with others who had also gotten their asses wooped.

Wind today, like yesterday was pretty offshore, pretty light inside and strong outside. Pretty challenging conditions really. Talked to a few guys who had stopped off at Hookipa and heard that it was insanely light inside and still big waves there, so they had come down to Kanaha instead. Latest forecast is saying winds will back off very slightly tomorrow (though I believe they'll be about the same as today) and that our high pressure should weaken by Thursday and turn the wind lighter around Thursday for a couple of days before another high reinforces the trades again. Looks like current surf levels are forecast to decline over the next few days, but there looks to be a chance for another large swell event this weekend some time.

## [Trades are Back! With Waves!](#)

Sunday, October 22nd, 2006

After a 2 and a half week hiatus, the trade winds finally returned to their normal strength this weekend. Looks like they may have returned late yesterday afternoon, though I was chillin' in the sun on the south side late yesterday afternoon, so I missed it yesterday if it was sailable. Today however, was full on wind from late morning all day long. The park at Kanaha was as crowded as a summer holiday, packed with eager windsurfers and local families picknicking and BBQing.

Wind-wise, it was pretty offshore and some people were complaining it was a bit holey and gusty and yeah, maybe it wasn't epicly solid wind, but beggars can't be choosers and it felt fantastic to get out on the water again. In the wave department, the forecast from last night's news was saying 5 - 7' on the north shore, but on arrival, it was obvious the surf was a lot bigger, even from the shore it was apparent that the outer reef at Uppers was breaking, which usually means Uppers is mast high or bigger.

5.0 was the call for me. Started out with a warm-up at Lowers where it was pretty sweet in my opinion - clean, head-high or so on average, up to logo-high with some sets. Sailed up to Uppers to see what was happening there. Definitely bigger with some big, meaty, hulking sets coming through. This was definitely high surf advisory material, yet none was posted. Hookipa had to have been at least as big as Uppers and since it's a little better than Uppers when the wind is so offshore, I'm guessing Hookipa must have been going off.

Coming off the water you could almost sense a collective sigh of relief amongst the windsurfers. Everyone was commenting how good it felt to have the trades back. Looks like they might stick around for at least a few days. The high pressure to our north that generates them seems to be establishing itself pretty well. Ahhhhhhh!!!! 😊

## [Hope on the Rise](#)

Saturday, October 21st, 2006

Hope is on the rise throughout the windsurfing community that are long-lost Maui trade winds will be coming back very soon. We've been in a bout of heavy rain the last few days, but this morning has dawned clear and sunny, and the forecasters are talking about decreased chance of rain today and the return of trade winds by Monday, but are indicating that there are signs that the trades are already trying to make a comeback as early

as today.

## [Trade Wind Forecast](#)

Wednesday, October 18th, 2006

From this morning's forecast discussion ...

“THE COMPUTER MODELS HAD BEEN RATHER INCONSISTENT...MODEL TO MODEL AND RUN TO RUN...EARLY NEXT WEEK BUT RECENT RUNS HAVE BEEN IN BETTER AGREEMENT. THE LOW WILL MOVE AWAY TO THE WEST AND A SURFACE HIGH WILL BUILD NORTHEAST OF THE ISLANDS. THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BECOME MORE STABLE AND TRADE WINDS...AT LAST...WILL RETURN EARLY NEXT WEEK.”

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