



## Journalism Award for windgirls.com

windgirls.com, the online magazine dedicated to the female side of the sport of windsurfing, has a good reason to celebrate: By being honored with the „Award in Sports Journalism 2006” (online category), windgirls.com magazine was finally able to prevail over the superiority of mainstream sports media, probably being the first windsurfing media in history to do so. Among the congratulators are multiple world champion Karin Jaggi and sports photography legend Darrell Wong.

Andy Aichinger, founder and editor in chief of windgirls.com magazine: „I was really surprised that an online magazine dedicated to windsurfing was able to succeed over contributions from mainstream sports like football.” Now the windsurf enthusiast wants to dedicate his Austrian Award in Sports Journalism especially to all windsurfing women and girls: „Some years ago I created windgirls.com magazine, just because women are terribly underrepresented in our great sport. They are very often kind of jammed between male macho attitudes and their own modesty.” Being asked for the formula of success the journalist from Vienna refers to the overcoming of seeming antipodes: „We believe that editorial quality and online media, but also sexual equality and sexiness can be a good fit. A very good fit.” By the way: Aichingers records say that the award comes almost exactly 60,000 hours after the launch of windgirls.com magazine and thus pleases the team as a kind of birthday present, too.

### Wong and Jaggi congratulate

60,000 hours, that also seem to have impressed photography legend and windgirls supporter Darrell Wong. Darrell: „windgirls.com is the best online or print magazine for ‘women who windsurf’, whether they rip Hookipa, compete in local regattas, or sail with their families. Continue your success!” And multiple world champion Karin Jaggi adds: „I love windgirls.com mainly for two reasons: first it gives us an open platform for whatever is happening and an opportunity to present ourselves. That’s a huge difference to most other windsurfing sites where the female side of the sport still simply doesn’t exist. And second it doesn’t have the usual ‘sexist touch’ of a women-only-site. We don’t want to complain, compare or fight – we simply are. We windsurf. We love it! – and windgirls.com is our website.”

### „Female Windsurf Buddy”

Nevertheless it’s crystal clear for Aichinger that his major mission is to assist, inform and inspire “windgirls” like you and me. windgirls like Liisi Raidaru for example, a 23 year old student from Estonia, who has gone all the way with windgirls.com from being a bloody rookie to her first frontloop attempts. „For me windgirls is like a female windsurf buddy, who has the same weight, the same strength, the same size, the same fears and the same desires that I do. In windsurfing one always needs a good friend of your own kind to count on. To share the joy and thrill but also the hardships, when they cross the path; to ask advice from someone who may be more experienced and to give advice to those who are less. Since the very beginning of my windsurfing “career” windgirls.com has been that friend, a good friend, and I am happy about having such one.”

[www.windgirls.com](http://www.windgirls.com)