



JAM – SPREAD THICK & TASTY

Donegal, on the west coast of Southern Ireland, was to be the location of the inaugural Donegal Beach Jam organised by *Kitecrew.com*. With a load of new gear and toys, the stage was clearly set for several fun filled days!

We piled out of the van in fits of laughter, ready to dig sand away from the tyres and unhitch our trailer full of kite gear. Next moment, a fleet of wagons cruised up the beach in our direction. Leading the way was our host for the weekend, Mark Richardson, owner and manager of www.kitecrew.com, complete with his Mobile Kite School and a twenty-eight strong group of kites with a single thought on their minds. "For the Craic" you might say? Yes! But at this stage, it seemed more important to extract us from the bed of 'stealth sand' that had engulfed our mighty Ozone Tour Bus. Having travelled 10 hours through the night, the beach had swallowed us with its gritty jaws.

Jam spread lightly...

The Jam kicked off at Rossnowlagh, a three mile stretch of hard-packed coastline in the most beautiful and serene of Irish surroundings. Despite very light winds, the BIG kites came out and everybody set about enjoying the lovely sunny day that was upon us. An awesome BBQ, put on by Gary Rabbett

and cooked to perfection by the Irish Jamie Oliver, kept the tight-knit group content while footballs and Frisbees kept us laughing during the lulls.

Keith and Val Tranmer, from Wind Dragon Buggies who make bespoke buggy components, were in attendance with new recreational and race buggies to show off, as was Dave Morris from Kitedeck. Brian Tolley of Hardcore clothing printed up some T's for the event which we all received with great pleasure! Four members of the Ozone UK crew made the journey across across the Irish Sea – Chris Hill, Phat Dan, Butch and the legendary 'Hobbit' – 10 year old 'Wee man Jack' complete with dad as chaperone. But perhaps the show stealer was the new offering from Design-Extreme – the Genesis Landboard with full carbon deck and stunning new truck system. A sight to behold as well as beautiful to ride!

With light fading, the clan headed for the Millpark Hotel in Donegal Town to continue the festivities with good food and good craic. After a beautiful meal ▶





and smiles all round, the hearty goodness began to flow. We spent the night with a host of new friends, enduring a steady supply of Guinness from all directions, with the predictable result of more than a few bleary eyes on the beach later that morning.

Jam spread thicker...

Murvagh was the location of the second day's activities, 10 minutes further up the coast from Rosslare, with a slightly better beach for the forecast south-westerly winds. The tide took no time to recede and a 12 mph cross-shore breeze was the perfect way to clear fuzzy heads and get on with the task at hand. Race buggies of all sizes and descriptions were assembled, including the new Wind Dragon and Chris Hill's mightily impressive XX Racer as kites went up for some mellow Sunday cruising. A few light wind unhooked styles kept the throng of landboarders happy, whilst the 'Wee Man' showed his admirers what ripping is all about, both in his buggy and on his board.

A lot of the Irish flyers had their first taste of de-powerable flying and took to it like they had been doing it for years. With Kyle Mooney on the Frenzy and girlfriend Jan on the

Access, we were supremely impressed with how fast they caught on, soon ripping up the beach alongside the Ozone crew. For a small group of flyers, these guys have a strong contingent of Hot Chick Kites! Nice one Kitecrew! That's what we like to see!

Once the wind had diminished, along with everyone's energy, it was time to pack up vans, say good-bye to our new Irish friends and head cross-country to Rosslare on the east coast where the ferry was waiting to take us home. We all agreed it was an awesome experience, reminiscing as we slept five-up in the Ozone Van, having missed our ferry back to Ole Blighty, having to wait 12 hours for the next one. Ah well.... To be sure... To be sure... PK

Special thanks go to:
www.winddragon.co.uk
www.hardcorekitesports.co.uk
www.kite-deck.co.uk
www.flyozone.com
www.design-extreme.co.uk
www.kitecrew.com

Photos: Mark Richards & James McEvoy
Words: Butch (Ozone UK, Design Extreme, Billys)

