

## **INDUSTRY TESTIMONIALS**

**for ERIC AKISKALIAN of Towsurfer.com**

**APRIL 2017**

*"I have known Eric Akiskalian of Towsurfer.com for over 15 years and I have traveled to many global big wave destinations with him as well. Over the years, he has demonstrated his dedication, expertise, time and passion to promoting our sport and keeping surfers safe with assisting in water safety and rescue. As of recent, I have personally had him work with me in Nazare, Portugal and Mavericks, CA for water safety, assist and rescue for our crew. I trust his abilities and level of experience with my life in any situation that he is willing to put himself in. He's very calculated and confident, but he also knows that mistakes and bad situations will happen to the best. He's mentally and physically prepared for the worst case scenarios. He's a great friend with a big heart and very easy to work with."* - **Garrett McNamara / Current Guinness World Record Holder for Biggest Wave Surf**

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*"There's a lot you can say about Eric Akiskalian and they are all amazing things! Eric is a dedicated adventurer, a knowledgeable resource for anything and everything logistics and a true professional in the industry. We contracted Eric to provide logistical and coordinating support on our television production in Iceland in April, 2016. After we agreed, Eric got right to work and made our production go as smoothly as possible in the most unforgiving conditions. Not only were we successful on our shoot, Eric's attitude and charisma kept morale high while he negotiated deals with international vendors to keep us on track and on budget. If you are in need of a gifted and connected individual to handle logistics anywhere in the world, Eric is the man you should call."* - **PJ Lungren, Director/Producer, The Go Big Project / Red Chargers / Maverick Moments / LIFTOFF**

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*"I've worked with Eric Akiskalian throughout the world, on a number occasions and in very heavy water situations, both paddling and towing. His knowledge and experience on water safety and driving the ski puts*

him at the top with the best. He's definitely one of the few I could rely on when the situation gets gnarly in and out of the water." - **Andrew 'Cotty' Cotton / Professional Big Wave Surfer, UK**

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"Eric Akiskalian is one of those guys that's a team player, always looking out for other people before himself. Very experienced with water safety and especially when shit hits the fan. I trust my life with him and we need more safety guys like him in the lineup. Eric always has good vibes, very positive energy and we kind of need that around when you're dealing with giant days like the swells we're chasing." - **Will Skudin / Professional Big Wave Surfer, USA**

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"I've known Eric Akiskalian for over a decade now and his dedication to Tow Surfing and PWC Water Safety is 2nd to none. I have used Eric and his services on many occasions chasing swells around the world. I trust him to come and get me when my life is on the line. I know he is constantly keeping his skills fine tuned and doing all the updated courses so he is on his game. Thank you Eric for keeping me safe over the years and looking forward to many more sessions to come. Cheers!" - **Jamie Mitchell / Professional Big Wave Surfer, AUS**

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"The more you can learn from trained professionals, the safer our oceans will be. It was great to have Eric Akiskalian in our training program and share his expertise and knowledge" -**Archie Kalepa / County of Maui, HI Ocean and Safety Water Patrol**

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"This course really opened my eyes to how important safety is and how much training is needed. What I learned with Eric Akiskalian in two days would have other wise taken me an entire season to figure out. Having just bought a new PWC, I learned how to properly outfit and drive my ski and now I can enjoy my water time and feel somewhat knowledgeable".- **Sean Jenson / Owner Eletic Surfboards / Huntington Beach, CA**

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*“I was stoked to find Eric Akiskalian online and learn that he offered a private tow-in training course. I hired him for private PWC training, ocean safety and tow-in’s for about 4 days. I wanted to learn as much as I could and absorb all the information he had to offer. His level of experience and knowledge was apparent and by the end of the course, I felt much more competent with my driving and pick ups in the beach break. I am not a big wave tow surfer but love to tow solid south swells in my area. This was the perfect training course for me as a beginner wanting to advance my skills and experience. I would highly recommend Eric, if you are looking for this type of training course.”* **Matt Hill / Oxnard, CA**

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*“I met Eric Akiskalian soon after I became interested in shooting big wave surfing nearly 10 years ago. As a regular fixture in the water at Nelscott Reef, Eric tackles some of the biggest conditions the Pacific Northwest has to offer. Getting out to Nelscott Reef is a challenging affair and takes focus, skill, and knowledge. Eric, is one of the few people I trust to get me and my equipment out in The Zone quickly and safely. In 2010, I was lucky enough to be able to capture his Biggest Wave of the Year nomination for the XXL Big Wave Awards. In addition to Nelscott, I have been fortunate to have him drive me at some of the best big wave spots including Mavericks and Teahupo’o. It takes a team to take on big waves as well as document them. It is nice to know Eric is out there and on your team, especially when the swell and conditions are unpredictable.”* - **Richard Hallman / Freelanceimaging.com / Bend, OR**

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*“When I come to Oregon or California it's always good to know that Eric Akiskalian is available helping to coordinate safety and logistics for the swells. Eric is a dedicated water man that has the experience, passion and drive needed for success in big surf. He's a good guy with a great attitude and worth having in your corner on those special days of waves.”* - **Trevor Sven Carlson / Oahu, HI**

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*“Eric Akiskalian is a Global Big Wave Adventure Surfer with multiple Billabong/WSL XXL Big Wave Award Entries and Nominations. Eric currently holds the record for riding the biggest wave ever surfed in the Pacific Northwest Region at 65'. He's also the owner of [Towsurfer.com](http://Towsurfer.com) and dedicated to promoting the responsible growth of big wave surfing and water safety. His commitment and dedication to the sport has made him one of the most respected surfers, promoters and leaders of our time.”* - **Brent Brent Norris ED, Green Collar Technologies University of Hawaii at Hilo Innovation Center**

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