

2006 Trimaran Nationals – Corsair 28R One Design Championship

By Michael Zotzky, with commentary on the Sprint 750/Corsair 24 fleet by Don Wigston

Life is “normal” once again, after returning from six days at the 2006 Trimaran Nationals in Fort Walton Beach, Florida (known in previous years as the Corsair Nationals, albeit this year the organizers deciding to proceed without a title sponsor). Laurie and I have attended a Corsair National Championship event probably 6-7 times over the past ten years of Corsair 24 and 28R ownership, where it has been sailed in Pensacola, Florida, up the coast in Fort Walton Beach, and even one year in Galveston Bay, Texas (in conjunction with Texas NOOD, although lightly attended). This years Fort Walton Beach event was sanctioned as our Corsair 28R One Design Class championship.

Each year of the Florida events, we have witnessed the “surprise” arrival of some cold front, rain, high wind, or combination of the above making for some “not so nice” sailing days. So we did not get too excited about the weather channel forecast of 80 degree F high temps and 10-15 knot breezes, realizing as in previous years that could not be depended upon. Except for this year! We had a full week of 80-82 deg F days with nice wind and relatively flat water. Even the thunderstorm line that hammered Texas on Friday arrived in Fort Walton Beach around 3 am on Saturday, and was gone by 6 am. The weather could not have been more perfect.

The event was organized by the Fort Walton Yacht Club. It started with a Speed Seminar by Randy Smyth, with the classroom session on Monday evening, followed by an on-water session all day on Tuesday. Laurie and I had already attended the seminar in a previous year, so opted to drive over from Houston on Monday, rig the boat Tuesday morning, and get some practice time on the water with our crew Jim Stevenson and John Norman (who own an F-24 and Corsair 24, respectively).



Trimarans anchored in shallow water at Leaside Park.

It was great to be back in Florida, and the especially-clear water and white sand beaches of the Fort Walton/Destin area. The boat was “anchored” along with 6-8 other trimarans at Leaside Park,

across the street from our inexpensive-yet-nice Sea Spray condo rental. Floating in less than two feet of water, an anchor and bridle off of the bow, and a stern anchor pushed into the sand on the beach. It was surprising there were not more boats kept there. The Fort Walton Yacht Club is a relatively short drive away. It is all a very compact venue.

On Tuesday night all of the sailors met at FWYC for registration, as well as the Skippers Meeting. It was a great place to catch up with all of the sailors from the other Classes. I also noticed a lot of Corsairs anchored in the shallow water around the club, and a few others had rented condos that had dock space. Principal Race Officer (PRO) George Goodall was a familiar face, having been the PRO in the last Fort Walton Nationals we attended in 2003. George went on to explain the week's program, stating a couple of times that "this is not like Key West", which tried to convey they were aiming for more of a fun "rendezvous" sailing program, than hard-core buoy racing. There was even particular attention to explaining the starting sequence, showing the flags used – all in an effort to remove the anxiety for those new to the sport of sailboat racing.

All tallied, there were 33 boats entered in four Classes: a Corsair 24 fleet with six Corsair 24's and four Sprint 750's; eight Corsair 31's (including three 31-1D's); and a mix of six boats in Open Fleet (including Richard Stephen's Corsair 28CC, and Jim Jeter's Corsair 28). Our Corsair 28R fleet was the largest One Design Class with nine boats, including defending champions Onsgard and Remmers (with Olympians Jay and Pease Glaser as crew), Bob Harkrider, Matt Scharl (F-25C champion filling in for Randy Smyth on *Rocketeer II*, including crew Mark Zaranski), Steven Marsh, Tom Reese, sailmaker David Calvert (steering Bert Kornyei's *Hot Flash*), Laurie Zotzky, Mike Reeves (who I crewed for at St Pete NOOD in February), and John Novak. This group also attended the Key West Race Week earlier this year.



Skipper (Laurie Zotzky), and crew Jim and John, on Persevere.

Wednesday's race program was a race up the bay to Niceville, a catered lunch at Lincoln Park, and then an afternoon start of Race 2 which would be back to a finish line at FWYC. George tried something different this year, with a Bermuda or

"reverse start" in Race 1. The 21 sec/mi-rated Corsair 28R's started 12 min 55 sec after the first-start Corsair 24's (84 sec/mi rating). The 31-1D's rated at -51 sec/mi started last. The course called for a 12-mile run to a mark at the mid-bay bridge, then jibe and another mile to the finish line. The course was a very tight spinnaker run. It placed a huge emphasis on the start, as there was really no "passing lane", or opportunity to find a favored side of the course, etc., to pass boats within the Class. At best, you could hope that your competition was passed closely

and shadowed by the larger-chute 31's, which provided a huge and immediate impairment to boat speed! Wind speed started at 5 knots and built to around 10 knots. Bruce Kuersten's Corsair 24 got a clean start, and managed to hold off all of the other boats except Don Wigston's Sprint 750. Phil Styne and Bob Gleason – both on Sprint 750's - finished 3rd and 5th, and Glenn Howell's Corsair 31 sneaked in 4th. The fastest 28R was Onsgard/Remmers finishing 8th overall.

The boats pulled up in the shallow water around Lincoln Park, and "Wild Bill" Grady (who has apparently shed his previous "Shady Grady" moniker now he has joined the *Rocketeer* entourage) served up monster-sized chicken breast sandwiches, salad fixings and brownies. As the crews dined in the shade and traded stories, the tall pine trees started to sway indicating the wind was increasing on the bay.

Race 2 had another Bermuda start, but this time upwind to the mid-bay marker, and then 12 mile reach to the finish line located off the point at FWYC. The wind was probably 12-15 knots, which made for a high-speed run to the first mark. Objective: keep the boat moving fast, pass slower boats to the windward side, but avoid being passed closely to windward by the 31's! Sound familiar? We started off strong, but found as the wind went forward, our old screacher was really not cut for upwind work. After leading Mike Reeve's 28R for the entire race, he passed us within 100 yards of the finish line, leaving us with the distinction of last in Class to finish. Ugh. That said, it was a wonderful sail. Class race leaders at the end of the first day were defending champions Remmers/Onsgard, followed by a tie between Bob Harkrider and Matt Scharl, and then Tom Reese and Dave Calvert.

Thursday racing program was scheduled to be in the Gulf of Mexico. There were a few not-too-excited about the risk of seasickness, but as it turned out the seas were very small. (We even spotted porpoises, and a large sea turtle.) The boats motored out the Destin jetty, hoisted jibs or unfurled screachers, and sliced through the turquoise water.



Sailing through Destin pass.

The race committee set a course that was essentially a tight reach to a sea buoy, spinnaker run to a floating buoy, a reach back to the sea buoy, then a short run to the finish line. Total course was around 7 nm, with wind speed recorded at 7 knots. A standard starting sequence was used, with the 28R's starting as the third of four Classes. Tom Reese had a clean start and lead at every mark, taking his first bullet of the regatta, and Steve Marsh had his best finish to-date with a second place horn. Harkrider and Onsgard were disadvantaged somewhat by not having screechers onboard (nor even owning them!).



Corsair 28R's racing offshore.

Race 4 had a similar heading to the sea buoy, but then rounded on a reach to a new mark, a reach back, and then a short downwind run with the chute to the finish line. Wind was still around 8 knots, and the course 10 nm long. Once again the starts were very competitive, and Harkrider was over early. He also had not noticed the I-flag was hoisted, and dipped the start line to clear rather than sail the required course around the ends. Even though he crossed the finish line in the top crowd, he was scored on course side (OCS) and cheerfully awarded nine points. Matt Scharl sailed a strong race to finish first, followed by Dave Calvert and Tom Reese. At the end of the second day of racing, Matt Scharl topped the leader board with 9 points, followed by Onsgard/Remmers with 11 pts, Reese with 12 pts, then Harkrider and Calvert both with 18 pts, and Marsh at 20 pts.

A banquet was held at FWYC on Thursday night, and there was much joy in having the “two days of reaching contests” (as one entrant put it) over with, and now “get on with real racing” –

windward/leeward races in the bay. Calvert Sails sponsored a beer keg for socializing prior to dinner, and the yacht club served a delicious meal with on-screen entertainment of race course movies shot by Bob Selwyn (a Corsair 28CC owner, who attended the regatta to film the action – DVD available by writing selwynmedia@earthlink.net), and photos by pro-photographer Stuart Schaeffer

(www.stuartonline.com).

Afterwards, Randy Smyth narrated a short film of the Volvo Extreme 40 catamarans. If you think Corsair trimarans are fast, you have to check out the Extreme 40 cats!

Phil Styne's Sprint 750 "Trukin".

Friday had three buoy races scheduled in the bay. Time to pull ourselves out of the 9th place/bottom of the Corsair 28R Class finish order, that 7th place Mike Reeves took great pride in pointing out. Race 5 was two times around the course, with a distance of 6 nm, and 5 knot wind speed. Race's 6 and 7 was similar-distance course, with wind speed of around 7 knots.



The Onsgard/Remmers/Glaser team showed this was clearly their kind of racing, posting two bullets and a second place finish. Harkrider also reveled in the familiar format, with two seconds and a third place finish. Marsh won the first race, but then posted a 3rd and 5th. Calvert started to come back, with 4th place finishes in the last two races, and Scharl slipped with 5th and 7th place finishes in the first two races (his worse finish prior was a 3rd). At the end of the day, Onsgard/Remmers stood firmly on top with 15 points, followed by Scharl with 24 pts, Harkrider with 25 pts, Reese 28 pts, Marsh 29 pts, and Calvert with 32 pts. We were lifted by a 6th place finish in the last race, moved out of the basement, and trailed 7th place Reeves by only 2 points. (Hey, you don't have to be at the top to have rivalry and competitive racing!)

Saturday was scheduled for an earlier 9 am start, to try to get in two races before the final-race-start deadline of noon. As mentioned earlier, a storm rolled through the area in the early morning hours, and the 9 am start time was marked by a horn and postponement flag – signaling no wind. The wind filled in just in time to get the start off at 11:40 am. Race 8 was three times around the course, with a distance estimated to be 9 nm, and wind around 6 knots. The I-flag was once again flying, and found us OCS within a minute of the horn (along with Calvert). I suspect Mike Reeves was grinning as he started cleanly heading toward the

windward mark, and we were going the opposite direction to round the pin-end buoy and clear our OCS, along with Calvert.

Most of the regatta, the middle of the course seemed favored, rather than “banging the corners” along either shoreline. Wind direction was typically steady, but would fill in with more velocity on occasion. However, compared to shifty conditions on our local Galveston Bay, this was rather steady. Because of the wind consistency, there was a huge premium on good, clean starts, and crew work at the mark roundings.

In the final race, Steve Marsh pulled out his second bullet of the regatta, followed by Harkrider and Onsgard/Remmers. Matt Scharl covered and finished ahead of Tom Reese, and we managed to cross the finish line next (ahead of Calvert and Reeves; Novak had to leave at the end of the previous day). It was our second sixth-place finish in the Class, and pulled us above Reeves and Novak in the final results ranking.

Congratulations to Robert Onsgard and Robert Remmers (and crew Jay and Pease Glaser) for successfully defending their Corsair 28R One Design National Championship title – having also won the event in 2005. Although the Corsair 28 standard models did not have enough boats for their own fleet, Richard Stephens Corsair 28CC earned a second place trophy in the Open Class. Don Wigston sailed a Corsair Sprint 750 and placed at the top of the overall PHRF standings, taking home the Ian Farrier Perpetual trophy. Also Bruce Kuerten (Corsair 24) won the Windcraft Amateur Trophy for the best overall team at the Nationals with no marine industry professionals (boat dealers, sailmakers etc.) on board. Don provided this perspective regarding the competition in the Corsair 24/Sprint 750 fleet:

“To me, the most exciting aspect of this year's Trimaran Nationals was that we (Mike McGarry and I) were able to win our class and the event overall on handicap in the new Corsair Sprint 750. The Sprint 750 is a lightweight more powered-up version of the Corsair 24, however about the only thing the 750s and 24s have in common is their hulls. Sailing the 750 has a feeling of liveliness closer to that of a fast beach cat than a larger trimaran. Three of the four 750s entered sailed with just two persons on board, to keep total weight down and performance up. There was some great competition between Bob Gleason, Phil Styne and myself, all veterans of other classes who have turned to the new 750 for its simplicity and the fun factor. On the race course the 750's proved to be closer in performance to the 28Rs than the 24s, and in some legs of the distance races were able to match the 28Rs boat for boat. We scored big in the first 4 races, and although Bob Gleason came on strong in the windward leeward races, and Phil Styne proved he was a hard man to beat, our early margin enabled us to hang on to the lead for the rest of the regatta, and in fact take the overall win on corrected time. Although this year the 750s were lumped in with the 24s for convenience, because of their clear performance differences the 750s should really be scored separately from the 24s, and this will happen next year-already 40 of these boats have been built since September 2005, so many more should attend next year. When the 24s results broken out, after some close racing it was Bruce Kuerten, Bert Rice and Ed Dixon who came out on top in the 24 Class.”

Here are the results for each of the Classes, as well as the overall rankings. The 24 Class was originally made up of Sprints and Corsair 24's. Then due to some late Corsair 24 entrants that pushed them over the hurdle of being scored as a separate Class, the Corsair 24's were rescored for their own awards. The results below show the scores of both the combined fleet, and the Corsair 24's scored as their own Class.

Thanks to the Fort Walton Yacht Club for hosting the event, running a mixed venue of racing to try to appeal to everyone, and welcoming all of the owners and crew into their club.

Photos by Michael and Laurie Zotzky. Go to Stuart Schaeffer's site if you want to see pictures taken by a pro!

Corsair 28R One Design Fleet - Sailed: 8 Discards: 1 Ratings: One Design (21 sec/mi)

Rank	Sail Boat Name	Bow No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Net
1	193 Fifty-Fifty	50	Onsgard	Remmers	Coral Gables, FL	1	1	5	4	2	1	1	3	13
2	156 Bad Boys	32	Bob	Harkrider	Augusta, GA	3	2	4	OC	3	2	2	2	18
3	159 Rocketeer II	35	Matt	Scharl	Chicago, IL	2	3	3	1	5	7	3	4	21
4	186 Dealers Choice	38	Steven	Marsh	Stuart, FL	6	7	2	5	1	3	5	1	23
5	64 Flight Simulator	34	Tom	Reese	Niagra Falls, NY	4	4	1	3	4	5	7	5	26
6	158 Hot Flash	36	Dave	Calvert	Islamorada, FL	5	5	6	2	6	4	4	7	32
7	51589 Persevere	30	Laurie	Zotzky	Houston, TX	8	9	9	7	7	9	6	6	52
8	157 Ballistic	39	Mike	Reeves	Cropwell, AL	9	8	7	6	9	6	8	8	52
9	118 Overdo	37	John	Novak	Colleyville, TX	7	6	8	8	8	8	9	DNC	54

Corsair 24/Sprint 750 Fleet - Sailed: 8 Discards: 1 Ratings: PHRF TOT

Rank	Sail Boat Class	Bow	Helm	State	PHRF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Net	
1	9 Malbec Sprint 750	42	Don	Wigston	FL	33	1	3	1	1	4	2	1	3	12
2	26 Tri Me Sprint 750	45	Bob	Gleason	MA	33	4	4	2	2	1	1	3	1	14
3	12 Truckin Sprint 750	46	Philip N.	Styne	FL	33	3	6	4	3	2	3	4	2	21
4	92 Farfalla Corsair 24	49	Bruce	Kuerten	AL	84	2	1	5	5	3	5	2	4	22
5	2010 Mark Twain Corsair 24	40	Bert	Rice	FL	84	8	5	3	4	5	4	5	5	31
6	418 N/A Corsair 24	44	Paul F.	Perisho	FL	84	5	2	8	8	DNE	6	7	7	43
7	369 Tri Power Corsair 24	47	Ed	Dixon	IA	84	6	8	6	7	6	7	6	6	44
8	21 Snow Fox Corsair 24	41	Jim	Chambers	GA	84	9	7	7	6	7	8	8	8	51
9	23 N/A Sprint 750	48	Chris	Davey	FL	33	7	DNS	9	9	DNS	DNC	DNC	DNC	69
10	N/A Ali'i Nui Corsair 24	43	Jim	Mitchell	FL	84	10	9	10	10	DNE	DNC	DNC	DNC	72

Corsair 24 One Design Fleet - Sailed: 8 Discards: 1 Ratings: One Design (84 sec/mi)

Rank	Sail Boat Name	Bow No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Net
1	92 Farfalla	49	Bruce	Kuerten	Auburn, AL	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	9
2	2010 Mark Twain	40	Bert	Rice	Gulf Breeze, FL	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	12
3	369 Tri Power	47	Ed	Dixon	Johnston, IA	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	3	23
4	418 No Name	44	Paul F.	Perisho	Cape Coral, FL	2	2	5	5	DNE	3	4	4	25
5	21 Snow Fox	41	Jim	Chambers	Lawrenceville, GA	5	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	30
6	None Ali'i Nui	43	Jim	Mitchell	Navarre, FL	6	6	6	6	DNE	DNC	...	DNC	45

Open Class Fleet - Sailed: 8 Discards: 1 Ratings: PHRF TOT

Rank	Sail Boat Class	Bow	Helm	State	PHRF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Net		
1	Can 11Panther F 25C	10	Tony	Hammer	ONT	-15	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	11	
2	142 Trevelyan Cors	28CC	33	Richard	Stephens	NY	42	3	3	2	3	1	1	2	3	15
3	376 Blue Heron F	27F	12	Russ	Kincaid	NY	48	1	1	3	4	2	5	3	2	16
4	293 Triple Play F	27	11	Allen	Jacobson	WI	48	2	DNS	4	2	4	4	4	DNC	28
5	43 Jerry-Rigged Corsair	28	31	Jim	Jeter	FL	33	5	4	5	5	5	3	5	4	31
6	1000 Wind Spirit F	27F	14	Chris	Kent	FL	48	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNC	...	56		
6	42 Boudicca F	27	G/S	13	Tammy	Shelton	MS	24	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNC	...	56	

Corsair 31 Fleet - Sailed: 8 Discards: 1 Ratings: PHRFTOT

Rank	Sail	Boat Class	Bow Helm	State	PHRF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Net
1	3	Rocketeer III Corsair 31-1D	26 Randy Smyth	FL	-51	4	1	3	2	1	2	2	4	15
2	283	Condor Corsair 31-1D	23 Peter Frendenberg	FL	-51	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	15
3	27030	LeiLoe Corsair 31-1D	21 H.L. Enloe	TX	-51	2	5	1	1	5	4	RAF	1	19
4	221	Adios! Corsair 31	22 Glen Howell	NC	-26	1	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	21
5	162	Winged Impulse Corsair 31	20 Rex Bristow	MO	-20	5	2	6	5	3	7	4	5	30
6	51231	Trilobyte F31	24 Sam Showalter	TX	-27	6	6	5	6	6	5	6	7	40
7	232	Triple Threat F31R	27 Patrick Quin	OH	-20	7	7	7	8	7	8	5	8	49
8	181	Loose Cannon F31R	25 Willie Blevins	FL	-25	DNS	DNS	8	7	8	6	7	6	51

Overall Scoring - Sailed: 8 Discards: 1 Ratings: PHRFTOT

Rank	Fleet	Boat Name	Class	Helm	Club	PHRF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Net
1	9	Corsair 24 Malbec Sprint 750	Don Wigston	FL	33	1	3	4	4	5	4	4	8	29	
2	193	Corsair 28 Fifty-Fifty 28R	Onsgard/Remmers	FL	21	8	4	4	14	6	1	1	3	37	
3	26	Corsair 24 Tri Me Sprint 750	Bob Gleason	MA	33	5	5	4	5	2	6	9	6	38	
4	92	Corsair 24 Farfalla Corsair 24	Bruce Kuerten	AL	84	2	1	4	8	4	14	5	9	43	
5	156	Corsair 28 Bad Boys 28R	Bob Harkrider	GA	21	12	7	13	7	2	2	2	2	45	
6	12	Corsair 24 Truckin Sprint 750	Philip N. Styne	FL	33	3	8	4	6	3	11	10	7	48	
7	283	Corsair 31 Condor 31-1D	Peter Frendenberg	FL	-51	9	2	3	13	4	7	12	50		
8	186	Corsair 28 Dealers Choice 28R	Steven Marsh	FL	21	24	18	7	15	1	3	11	1	56	
9	3	Corsair 31 Rocketeer III 31-1D	26 Randy Smyth	FL	-51	10	16	3	2	12	5	8	4	56	
10	159	Corsair 28 Rocketeer II 28R	35 Matt Scharl	IL	21	11	9	10	10	10	4	3	5	58	
11	27030	Corsair 31 LeiLoe 31-1D	H.L. Enloe	TX	-51	6	23	1	1	22	9	RAF	4	66	
12	221	Corsair 31 Adios! C 31	Glen Howell	NC	-26	4	2	5	11	21	8	14	11	74	
13	64	Corsair 28 Flight Simulator 28R	Tom Reese	NY	21	4	10	6	13	9	13	13	10	74	
14	2010	Corsair 24 Mark Twain Corsair 24	Bert Rice	FL	84	4	6	14	7	8	12	16	15	78	
15	158	Corsair 28 Hot Flash 28R	Dave Calvert	FL	21	2	12	18	12	11	7	6	14	80	
16	162	Corsair 31 Winged Impulse 31	Rex Bristow	MO	-20	22	19	9	16	14	2	18	18	116	
17	Can 11	Open Panther F25C	Tony Hammer	ONT	-15	2	15	24	9	20	21	17	19	125	
18	369	Corsair 24 Tri Power 24	Ed Dixon Johnston, IA	84	13	17	22	18	18	2	21	20	129		
19	418	Corsair 24 418 Corsair 24	Paul F. Perisho	FL	84	7	2	2	28	DNF	19	24	21	130	
20	51589	Corsair 28 Persevere 28R	30 Laurie Zotzky	TX	21	24	25	2	21	16	21	12	13	132	
21	157	Corsair 28 Ballistic Corsair 28R	Mike Reeves	AL	21	25	24	19	20	2	15	15	16	134	
22	118	Corsair 28 Overdo Corsair 28R	John Novak	TX	21	23	13	20	24	17	20	19	DNC	136	
23	51231	Corsair 31 Trilobyte F31	Sam Showalter	TX	-27	2	26	8	19	23	17	22	24	139	
24	142	Open Class Trevelyan 28CC	Richard Stephens	NY	42	19	21	2	25	15	18	23	25	146	
25	376	Open Class Blue Heron F27F	Russ Kincaid	NY	48	14	14	26	26	19	2	27	22	148	
26	21	Corsair 24 Snow Fox Corsair 24	Jim Chambers	GA	84	28	11	23	17	24	3	26	27	156	
27	232	Corsair 31 Triple Threat F31R	Patrick Quin	OH	-20	2	27	11	27	27	27	19	26	164	
28	181	Corsair 31 Loose Cannon F31R	Willie Blevins	FL	-25	DNS	DNS	21	22	29	24	25	23	179	
29	293	Open Class Triple Play F27	Allen Jacobson	WI	48	17	DNS	27	23	25	28	28	DNC	183	
30	43	Open Class Jerry-Rigged Corsair 28	Jim Jeter	FL	33	30	28	3	30	26	26	29	28	197	
31	23	Corsair 24 NO NAME Sprint 750	Chris Davey	FL	33	15	DNS	30	29	DNS	DNC	...	214		
32	none	Corsair 24 Ali'i Nui Corsair 24	Jim Mitchell	FL	84	31	29	31	31	DNF	DNC	...	227		
33	1000	Open Class Wind Spirit F 27 F	Chris Kent	FL	48	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNC	...	245		
33	42	Open Class Boudicca F27 G/S	Tammy Shelton	MS	24	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNC	...	245		