

Kuerten Wins Corsair 24 National Championship

Bert Rice

Ft. Walton Yacht Club, 19 – 22 April – Bruce Kuerten, Larry Shaw, and Peter Clay, aboard ***Farfalla***, simply sailed smarter, smoother, and faster than the other five competitors to claim their first C 24 National title.

On day one we had to charge the rhumb line downwind to the bridge and gybe for the finish at the head of a bayou which featured safe mooring and a lunch under the pines with “Wild Bill Grady.” ***Farfalla*** started low with a great angle while we snarled our set in the middle of the line. Paul Perisho escaped over the top and half way down the leg it was clear that ***Farfalla*** was going to have to work hard to defend against Paul. They did. Ed Dixon, sailing ***Tri – Power***, finished third. The return race to FWYC was an upwind speed feast with ***Farfalla*** taking the high road to break away to cross the finish line first, boat for boat, in “Bermuda Start” style. Perisho was second, and ***Mark Twain*** sailed to a third. We enjoyed a friendly gathering on the yacht club porch with a great view of the sunset and with super hospitality from the members and staff while waiting on the scoring to be posted.

Day two dawned with racing in the Gulf of Mexico as the planned mission. Destin Pass does feature the prettiest water on the gulf coast, and we were lucky to catch “chamber of commerce” conditions for the day’s racing once we punched through the tide in the pass to get to the course. The two races that day offered us screacher practice. In the moderate breezes, the double head – rig (screacher and jib combination) worked great until the last leg of the final race. ***Farfalla*** attacked from behind on the leg to the finish, and we had to defend against them in a sincere spinnaker gybing duel. I guess a win by four feet is as good as any. The tasty banquet by the yc and the Extreme Volvo 40 presentation by Randy rounded out the evening.

Day three featured three buoy races with close quarter action between the 24’s and other designs. ***Mark Twain*** and ***Farfalla*** raced boat lengths apart for much of the day and traded wins, with ***Farfalla*** claiming two of the three races. By the second weather mark a thirty second lead could extend by three minutes if the second place boat became wrapped up in a gaggle of 28’s and 31’s. We learned to say “bye ***Farfalla***, see ya - wish we could be ya.” Leg lengths were a bit over a mile, and the wind averaged around 8 – 10. Bruce would finally get ***Farfalla*** out front on the first run, and would begin racing the bigger boats halfway up the second beat. He managed to squeeze in ahead of the gaggle, leaving us in their wake. Bruce’s needlework appeared seamless.

On the fourth day we had to wait on the sea breeze for only one race. The Race Committee elected to fire off another triple sausage. ***Mark Twain***, with a jib, won the upwind contest against ***Farfalla***, flying the screacher in upwind mode, to the top mark; however, a smoother set and consistent speed, sailing downwind soon had ***Farfalla*** ghosting away into the record book.

Paul Perisho, sailing **418**, had third place in his hand until the last quarter mile of the final race. Ed Dixon and his crew aboard **Tri Power** found a magic, downwind lane to sail around Paul in order to avoid a tie-breaker. Paul's background is in monohulls, and he lives in the Cape Coral area so look out for him to add depth to our class.

We hope to see at least ten – twelve 24's in St. Pete for the Midwinters during the NOOD Regatta. We have twelve rooms reserved in a block with discount rates. Six of those have already been spoken for. If you plan on attending (Feb. 8 – 11) be looking out for the reservation info I'll be sending soon. I am sure we can block more rooms if we respond early. See ya' soon.

Corsair 24 Results for the "Trimaran Nationals 2006"

Bruce Kuerten	Farfalla	1 – 1 – 2* – 2 -1 – 2 – 1 – 1	9 pts. *discard race
Bert Rice	Mark Twain	4* – 3 – 1 – 1 - 2 – 1 – 2 – 2	12 pts.
Ed Dixon	Tri Power	3 – 5 – 3 – 4* -3 – 4 – 3 – 3	23 pts.
Paul Perisho	418	2 – 2 – 5 – 5 - 6* – 3 – 4 – 4	25 pts.
Jim Chambers	Snowfox	5 – 4 – 5* – 3 - 4 – 5 – 5 – 5	31 pts.
Jim Mitchell	Alii Nui	6 – 6 – 6 – 6 -7* – 7 – 7 – 7	45 pts***

***forced to retire due to damage on day one.