



Corpus Christi offers elevated viewing angles, just one of the reasons we like it so much here. Vicki Balun image.

2020 IOM R5 Championship – Corpus Christi (2/28-3/1)

Bob Wells Reporting:

Always a good sign to see wind farms near an IOM venue, and once again they proved prophetic. Now I know why Organizer John Kelsey and his sidekick, Ken Weeks, have been scheming to have an IOM regatta here. It all came together for our first Corpus Christi IOM regatta, and it was memorable. Mama Mia, this is an extraordinary radio sailing venue. It is not just great sailing water with big wind and elevated viewing, but it came with high-quality race management and Corpus Christi Yacht Club amenities and many volunteers making sailors feel welcome. What a sweet winter break!

The combined event included the first 10R USA National Championship in a long time on Thursday and Friday preceding the IOMs. 10R Class Secretary Ken Weeks and John Kelsey share the credit to pull this off too, included Ken providing no less than 4 of the 5 boats sailing. 10R winds were moderate and if you want to know the podium finishers, just reverse the top three in the IOM event. The same Race Management team served both fleets, and the 10R skippers also all raced IOM for some synergy. I want to see the big 10Rs sailing here in some wind!

IOM skippers will travel, and R5 attracted skippers from both coasts and six states. Farthest traveled award goes to IOM road warrior Jerry Brower from Washington State, beating Bob Wells by the 40-minute farther drive to the airport. Corpus Christi is central in the US, so that's another plus for this venue. I like to acknowledge custom designed and built boats, and there is only one this time: the 2010 Britpop proto #1 by Brad Gibson and now sailed very well by Dennis Rogers. This break-through proto is still sailing strong ten active years later, a testament to the design and the longevity of IOMs. Half the entries at this regatta are Britpops, where the only significant upgrade since 2010 is Robot foils.

International Race Officer Mark Foster and his race management team on the buoy boat and scoring went about their business professionally and quietly. They communicated between themselves and the skippers calmly and well, and with a smile. Marks were adjusted as needed efficiently between heats so racing continued uninterrupted, another example of the professionalism. I learned that Mark was PRO at the 2019 IOM WC in Brazil, was twice past Commodore of CCYC, and is the senior Race Officer for USSailing. It showed.

Day 1 began with a thorough measure-in session that included a dip in Ken Week's extraordinary wet tank, and the racing started after lunch in the yacht club at 1:00. This was an A-rig day in moderate winds on a tight course, selected because of atypical onshore easterly winds. The Gulf was warmer than land. Often, we race with up to 20 boats in one heat, but this moorage channel was too tight for that, so we sailed in two heats. We achieved 7 races (14 heats) before it was time to relax at Corpus Christi Yacht Club with a beverage and many of us stayed for dinner.

Day 2 promised stronger winds from the prevailing SSE direction, and it delivered. This wind allows the preferred venue SW of the moorage, where we park conveniently at Water's Edge Parking Lot and setup on grass at Sherrill Park. The big water provides long legs to a distant weather mark, and with elevated viewing atop the stepped seawall it works well. Sailing was close per usual, yet with fewer contacts because the elevated viewing provides good depth of field. Morning was in the B-rig sweet spot, then just before lunch we needed our smallest rig on the last heat. All afternoon we sailed single heat races in C-rig mostly at the top of the wind range. To quote our favorite Bajan, "it was blowing dogs off the beach". It was glorious. The Gulf sent

serious rollers banging constantly on the breakwater, and inside we powered through short steep waves with our little boats bouncing. Lots of little rudder stab corrections were required to stay on course. Upwind you had to foot a little for speed to get the foils lifting, or you fell back. A bad tack set you way back, don't ask how I know. After two days, Golison leads with Rogers, Boell, and Landeau close behind. R5 remained up for grabs.

Day 3 forecasted even more wind, but it was not to be. We still sailed C-rig all day, now mostly near the bottom of the wind range. Waves were a modest problem, but finding the elusive sweet spot pointing high enough yet fast enough was the challenge. The underpowered boats all have lee helm with no obvious upwind groove. You must visually find it, and the top guys find it sooner and stay in it longer. Golison was so consistent in all the conditions he eventually separated himself for a solid win. The race was for 2nd place, and after each race positions shifted near the end. What great fun. Congratulations to Landeau for besting Boell by "one stinking point", as Freddy loves to say. Dennis Rogers was on the podium, but his last two only "better than average" finishes dropped him. Jerry Brower sailed his best the last two days for 5th place.

The awards ceremony was well covered in the Larry Hass video link noted below. Top three awards were custom "sailing" clocks by Mark Cooper. Mark received the "Special Finisher" award for being the "bubble boy" that sailed the most heats. Ken Weeks received the "Corinthian skipper" award for loaning his IOM fleet out to so many Texans so they could sail.

The huge effort by the organizer with many volunteers made this full-service event successful, and one that felt more like a national than a regional. The event even had its own logo. For a first event things ran unusually smoothly, and even the weather cooperated. After measuring in you received your swag bag. Saturday's yacht club dinner was generously provided by Ken Weeks, and it included raffles for many donations by our sponsors (listed on NoR), a 50-50 cash raffle where the proceeds were split between the winner and the class, and there were many plaques handed out recognizing our international and national officers of the class. The organizers managed it financially well enough to donate \$440 to the class, from both the raffles and the \$10/entry standard class request. Well done.

It was good to see half the fleet hailing from Texas, where a few sailed IOM for the first time. Expect more attendance from Texas and beyond next year after this first event exposure that checked all the boxes. Thank you, Alamo Sailing Club and Corpus Christi Yacht Club. We shall return.

Position	Skipper	Sail #	Club/City	Hull	Score
1	Mark Golison	55	California	Sedici	56.0
2	Steve Landeau	112	Georgia	britPOP!	80.0
3	Gary Boell	71	California	britPOP!	81.0
4	Dennis Rogers	43	California	britPOP!	86.0
5	Jerry Brower	42	Washington	K2	140.3
6	Craig Mackey	29	California	britPOP!	147.9
7	Michael Roure	19	New Jersey	britPOP!	174.0
8	Bob Wells	07	Washington	britPOP!	176.5
9	Chris Macaluso	12	Texas	britPOP!	199.0
10	Bruce Andersen	16	Idaho	britPOP!	239.0
11	Bruce Huckaba	11	Texas	britPOP!	272.0
12	Baron Bremer	81	Florida	Kan Two	296.0
13	Ed Balun	54	Texas	Kantun SMX	306.0
14	Mark Cooper	05	Texas	Arrival	339.0
15	Leaon Lance	10	Texas	F10	417.0
16	Geno Arrue	48	Texas	Kantun S	428.0
17	John Maudlin	3	Texas	Kantun SMX	432.0
18	Russ Gardner	52	Texas	MX16	457.0
19	Ken Weeks	74	Texas	Kantun SMX	510.0

Full Results: <http://www.ibextrax.com/RC2020/Results/0228R5.pdf>

Event Video by Larry Hass: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSQMVBkV8WA> (20 min. & ideal on computer monitors)

Awards Video by Larry Hass: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGztFB8-Yfs&feature=youtu.be> (Includes the Barry Fox tribute hat worn by all in the awards pictures.

Summary of the 2020 IOM R5 Championship (USA Ranking 1.1):

Class: International One Metre

Date: 2/28-3/1 (3 days racing)

Location: Corpus Christi Yacht Club, Corpus Christi, TX

Host Club: Alamo Sailing Club in San Antonio, TX - AMYA #374 and Corpus Christy Yacht Club

Number of Entries: 19

Winds: 5 – 30 mph

Races Completed: 32

Scoring System: HMS 2016 v3

Race Committee & Assistants: Organizer – John Kelsey; Registration – Debbie Bullard; PRO - Mark Foster;

Scorekeeper – Fred Rocha; Scoring Assistants - Robin Dinn, Vicki Balun; Images & Video – Larry Hass;

Measurers – John Kelsey, Russ Gardner, Ken Weeks; Buoy Boat – Allen Dinn, Ray Johnson.

Per usual, find this and all my regatta reports & newsletters at Jerry Brower's informative IOM website:

<http://www.ibextrax.com> and at our official website: <http://iomusa.org/>.



Day 2 with wide-angle view of the preferred radio sailing course for the prevailing SSE winds. A heat is underway with windward marks to right and the start and leeward marks distant next to the seawall. The breakwater is to the right, CCYC south moorage is center and the large yacht club is left of center. The stepped seawall is left with the wide Sherrill Park walkway adjacent and a little further left the grass setup area is out of the picture. Convenient parking is next to Sherrill Park. Note the elevated viewing. I give this venue an A+ for radio sailing. Bob Wells Image.



Day 1 in the tighter moorage channel due to the unusual east – west wind direction that day. Another heat begins with jockeying for a front tier spot with speed on the starting line. Vicki Balun image.



Day 3 and another heat with a contested start just south of the moorage with the breakwater beyond. The guy with jump had to be over early. Vicki Balun image.



Looking up at the skippers atop the stepped seawall. We like the elevated viewing with the big wind! Vicki Balun image.



Barry Fox's recent passing was often in our thoughts, and his IOM support and enthusiasm began while he lived in Houston and continued when he retired to Victoria, BC. My deck patch surreptitiously received a Barry tribute, and there were others.

End