

2024 RC Laser NCR Regatta Report, by Dave Branning, Race Director

In recognition of 20 years of championship regattas at Marco Island's Mackle Park, the RC Laser Class awarded the 2024 RC Laser National Championship to the Marco Island Model Yacht Club. It was also fitting to honor Rocky and Mary Lee Cale's years of passionate leadership at the newly named Cale Model Yacht Sailing Center. The championship was held March 1-3 with a practice afternoon on Friday and competitive racing on the weekend.

On Saturday morning, the sailing venue was brightened by AMYA and RC Laser feather flags responding to the perfect SE breeze all day. Happy Fox, proprietor of Happy's Place, graciously provided a breakfast assortment that topped all regatta offerings in our model yachting careers. A great way to start each day. It's the Marco way!

The thirty-boat fleet was divided into two 15-boat fleets, and everyone sailed four races to separate into the gold and silver regatta format. At the end of the seeding races, Sean Fidler, from Brighton, MI, held a one-point lead over defending champion, Jim Kaighin from the Abacos, Bahamas. Barr Batzer, Lighthouse Pt., FL, was two back of Kaighin with David Ramos, Stevensville, MD, in fourth and Charleston's, Will Van Cleef in fifth. These five, in the end, would remain the top five but the mix would change.

Now that the fleets were divided (gold/silver), gold fleet's Barr Batzer made a move, surging to a nine-point lead over Kaighin, with Fidler and Ramos following. Barr had a day with only one race out of the top three and that was a fourth. Not yet calculated, Fidler, Ramos and Van Cleef had obvious throw-outs in the teens that could make things interesting while Barr had not yet sailed an obvious throw-out race. A comfortable situation.

In the silver fleet, Charlie Sumner, from Delray Beach, FL, held a one-point lead over Glenn Chalder, from Simsbury, CT and four points over John Santoro from The Villages. Santoro was the only Silver Fleet skipper to win two races on Saturday. Myles Loesel, Charlie Sumner, Bob Tallman, Bob Shapiro, and Bob Piper would follow in that order.

Sunday was a bit overcast, and the Southeast breeze had dwindled a bit as the A-Sail vs. B-sail strategy dance on shore with last second decisions going on with one eye on each other's choices. Additionally, in the afternoon, the breeze decided to move further west, and, after a race start, I called "abandoned race" (Rule 32d), Rocky shifted the starting line and added a new windward mark further west to square the course. That worked to get the last two heats completed fairly.

Barr had six races in the top three on Sunday with a WDR 16th as a throw-out. His only other discard was a day-one fourth and he won the championship by 20 points on net score. A terrific accomplishment in this talented fleet.

Observations, Sound Bites and Thanks:

- The top four skippers have numerous RC and big boat national championships to their credit. Sean Fidler finished second again in this championship. No shame to this performance! Sean was second in the 2023 RC Laser NCR, five months ago, his first regatta in the RC Laser Class. He figured out this boat very quickly and if he had a lane his boat speed was eye opening. Barr Batzer and Jim Kaighin are seasoned RC Laser winners and quickly find a way out of a jam and tactically stay away from the crowd. David Ramos, who builds and sails many classes with success, is a once-a-year RC Laser skipper. No matter. He's a former RC Laser National Champion and in my opinion can make a cardboard box sail upwind. Will Van Cleef has been sailing an RC Laser for maybe a month and sailed very well in this tough crowd. These guys won all the races except one. Ray Seta, from San Antonio, TX, and fleet mate Todd Carrico finished one-two in Sunday's second race.
- Judy Bonanno was named the AMYA Region 2 Associate Director by RD Dave Branning at the skippers meeting on Saturday. Judy's regatta and scoring support is extensive and will be so valuable supporting numerous regattas around the country attended by her husband, Domenick. Here is the video of [Judy's new badge](#)
- Judy, the multi-tasker, also produced an incredible three days of pictures: <https://judybonanno.smugmug.com/Sailing/LASER/2024-RC-Laser-National-Champions>
- Thanks to all who came to this championship. A special tip of the hat to the skippers and spouses from Texas. What a fun group. They certainly livened up the action and we want you back in Florida next year.
- As RD this fleet was respectful, spirited and a treat to banter with all day. The "Sail Like 53" Corinthian spirit award, named for past AMYA President and long-time Marco Island RD David Brawner was won by Glenn Chalder, from New England. Glenn was over the top in providing help from Friday to take-down afternoon on Sunday and was quite emotional in receiving this award as he knew David Brawner in the 90's when Glenn was an early EC12 Class Secretary.
- Twenty-one skippers were repeat Marco Island championship participants with nine newcomers. This regatta has a thirty-boat limit and there were wait-list skippers who did not get to race. Plan Ahead next year, my friends.

- Special thanks, of course, goes to Rocky and Mary Lee Cale who make this regatta a personal commitment to excellence attending to numerous details from name badges to lunches & restaurant dinners, with support from MIMYC members attending to breakfasts and lunches, parking control, skipper gifts, raffle ticket sales to name a few. A tip of the hat to Don Armstrong's Leader Board. Very clever.
- Thanks to the race committee of Class Secretary, Nick Mortgu, and scorers Judy Bonanno, Mary Beth DeSantis, and Mary Lee Cale on the big board.
- Summary results below.

2024 RC Laser National Championship Results

GOLD FLEET

Place	Sail	Name	Hometown	Net Pts
1	175	Barr Batzer	Lighthouse Point, FL	30
2	77	Sean Fidler	Brighton, MI	50
3	757	Jim Kaighin	Abacos, Bahamas	53
4	105	Dave Ramos	Stevensville, MD	59
5	76	Will Van Cleef	Charleston, SC	81
6	09	Todd Carrico	Katy, TX	89
7	94	Bill Bentz	Fort Lauderdale, FL	94
8	81	Jon Luscomb	Jupiter, FL	98
9	03	Larry Lefczik	New Port Richey, FL	102
10	93	Ray Seta	San Antonio, TX	115.75
11	75	Steve Holdeman	University Park, FL	116
12	25	Jim Flach	Norristown, PA	116
13	60	Scott Rice	Boca Raton, FL	142
14	49	Henry DeWolf	Palm City, FL	148
15	117	Fred DeSantis	Ocean City, NJ	172

SILVER FLEET

Place	Sail	Name	Hometown	Net Pts
1	14	John Santoro	The Villages, FL	62
2	570	Myles Loesel	Deerfield Beach, FL	70
3	90	Charlie Sumner	Delray Beach, FL	81
4	87	Bob Tallman	Margate, FL	83
5	17	Bob Shapiro	Wilmington, MA	85
6	65	Bob Piper	Argyle, TX	88
7	41	Glenn Chalder	Simsbury, CT	92
8	11	Jacques Rioux	Cary, NC	103
9	95	Richard Phelps	Victor, NY / MIMYC	105
10	165	Terry Naylor	MIMYC	109
11	171	Dom Bonanno	Shrewsbury, NJ	131
12	79	Harry Henkel	Everglades City, NJ	143
13	48	Gary Krieger	Mt. Pleasant, SC	173
14	99	Roger Baldwin	Park City, UT	176
15	170	Wheat Harrison	Ontario, CAN & MIYC	182

2024 RC Laser National Championship Results - Gold Fleet

Place	Sail	Name	Hometown	Net Pts	Seeding Races				Day One Gold Races						Day Two Gold Races							Gross	T/O	Net
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
1	175	Barr Batzer	Lighthouse Point, FL	30	2	1	2	4	3	2	1	2	3	3	1	3	2	2	16	1	2	50	20	30
2	77	Sean Fidler	Brighton, MI	50	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	16	7	4	11	6	3	7	11	1	77	27	50
3	757	Jim Kaighin	Abacos, Bahamas	53	1	1	4	1	2	3	5	6	8	1	11	5	1	7	1	7	10	74	21	53
4	105	Dave Ramos	Stevensville, MD	59	3	4	1	3	7	15	4	7	2	2	2	10	9	1	6	5	3	84	25	59
5	76	Will Van Cleef	Charleston, SC	81	5	2	2	5	14	5	13	11	1	8	3	6	5	4	10	8	6	108	27	81
6	09	Todd Carrico	Katy, TX	89	4	2	8	2	10	8	6	4	13	14	8	2	10	5	5	2	13	116	27	89
7	94	Bill Bentz	Fort Lauderdale, FL	94	2	5	12	3	5	4	8	15	10	9	6	4	7	13	8	4	7	122	28	94
8	81	Jon Luscomb	Jupiter, FL	98	7	5	3	7	9	7	3	5	5	12	13	8	4	10	4	16	9	127	29	98
9	03	Larry Lefczik	New Port Richey, FL	102	3	5	11	2	4	14	14	10	4	10	7	9	8	6	9	3	11	130	28	102
10	93	Ray Seta	San Antonio, TX	115.75	4	12	9	6.25	8	12	10	9	7	13	10	1	12	9	3	10	5	140.25	25	115.25
11	75	Steve Holdeman	University Park, FL	116	8	10	6	7	6	6	11	8	11	6	14	12	13	14	2	6	4	144	28	116
12	25	Jim Flach	Norristown, PA	116	7	6	10	8	12	13	7	3	9	4	5	7	3	11	11	14	15	145	29	116
13	60	Scott Rice	Boca Raton, FL	142	6	3	9	5	13	10	9	14	12	5	16	13	11	12	13	12	8	171	29	142
14	49	Henry DeWolf	Palm City, FL	148	8	6	3	6	11	11	12	13	14	11	12	14	14	8	12	9	12	176	28	148
15	117	Fred DeSantis	Ocean City, NJ	172	10	7	13	4	15	9	15	12	6	15	9	15	15	16	14	13	15	203	31	172

2024 RC Laser National Championship

Results - Silver Fleet

Place	Sail	Name	Hometown	Net Pts	Seeding Races				Day 1 Silver Races				Day Two Silver Races								Gross	T/O	Net
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
1	14	John Santoro	The Villages, FL	62	11	10	4	14	8	8	1	1	5	6	1	1	10	1	3	3	87	25	62
2	570	Myles Loesel	Deerfield Beach, FL	70	5	9	11	8	9	12	6	4	8	2	7	2	2	6	1	1	93	23	70
3	90	Charlie Sumner	Delray Beach, FL	81	9	7	8	9	6	2	4	8	4	10	2	4	4	4	10	10	101	20	81
4	87	Bob Tallman	Margate, FL	83	9	13	14	10	3	6	5	11	2	1	8	9	3	5	4	7	110	27	83
5	17	Bob Shapiro	Wilmington, MA	85	13	14	5	11	1	9	11	6	6	5	6	5	8	3	7	2	112	27	85
6	65	Bob Piper	Argyle, TX	88	12	16	13	16	5	4	3	2	1	11	14	3	1	11	2	6	120	32	88
7	41	Glenn Chalder	Simsbury, CT	92	6	4	7	16	2	10	2	7	7	7	5	13	9	2	8	15	120	28	92
8	11	Jacques Rioux	Cary, NC	103	14	9	5	12	4	5	9	3	12	12	9	7	6	12	6	4	129	26	103
9	95	Richard Phelps	Victor, NY / MIMYC	105	11	16	7	9	7	1	7	10	3	4	11	11	12	7	12	5	133	28	105
10	165	Terry Naylor	MIMYC	109	10	11	6	12	14	3	10	5	9	9	4	12	5	8	9	8	135	26	109
11	171	Dom Bonanno	Shrewsbury, NJ	131	15	11	10	6	11	11	14	15	11	3	3	10	7	14	5	15	161	30	131
12	79	Harry Henkel	Everglades City, NJ	143	16	8	12	11	10	7	12	9	10	8	10	8	13	10	16	15	175	32	143
13	48	Gary Krieger	Mt. Pleasant, SC	173	15	13	15	13	15	13	13	13	14	14	13	6	14	9	11	11	202	31	171
14	99	Roger Baldwin	Park City, UT	176	13	12	14	13	13	14	15	12	14	13	12	14	11	13	13	9	205	29	176
15	170	Wheat Harrison	Ontario, CAN & MIMYC	182	12	8	15	10	12	13	8	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	212	30	182