

DESIGN TRACKS

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Catching Up With the Haps

New Racing Organization

R33 POD a Reality



Tracking the Innovations & Development of Reynolds Design

What a Ride!



It's been a while since we've checked in with you, the faithful R33 public, and much has been happening with our red hot speed machine as it grows and develops. The boat has been raced hard this year - harder than ever before and there are a few war wounds to prove it..

Where do we begin? The boat has been winning races like it always does, but we saw a few capsizes as a by-product of the typical envelope-pushing nature that the ordinary R33 skipper possesses. While we, here at Reynolds Design, didn't think much of it since, in our minds, it was simply the skippers pushing too hard - unfortunately the governing yacht clubs & ratings associations weren't no nonchalant. So we're in the middle of a fuss here in Southern California with the ORCA organization over a couple of capsizes.

So this has accelerated our focus on the self righting system, which will definitely be ready for this upcoming race season. And speaking of new developments, the R33 POD is finished and sea trials have proved it to be a snazzy little parlor to hang out in and it'll still sail at 17-19 knots.

But undoubtedly the most important development that has happened around here in the last couple of months is the launching of our new organization called XSRacing.

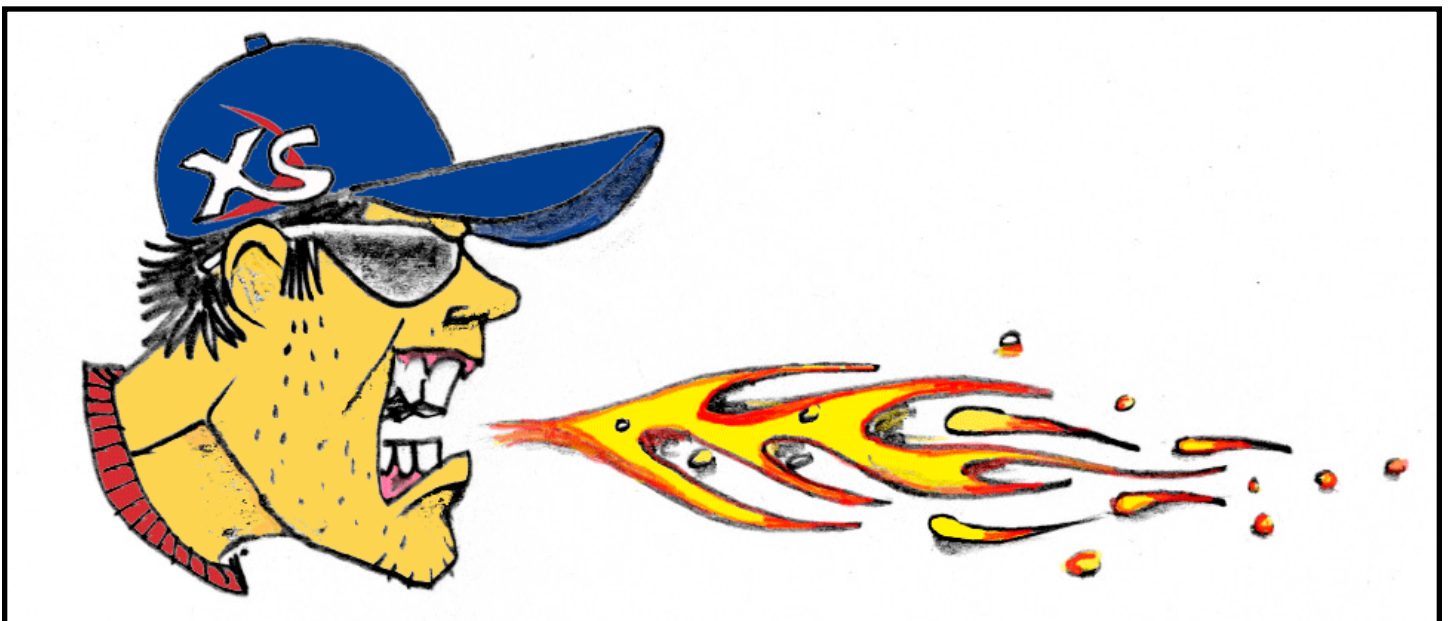
X FACTOR

After the news came down that the R33 was being banned from all the fun - based on what we consider over conservative over reaction, we knew we needed to take action. The righting system will be done, which will then make this boat safer than any other cat or tri on the market, but more than that - it made us reconsider the state of local racing in general, so we decided to start an organization that made more sense for us and others like us. We saw that in many ways, local clubs and organizations were chasing away sailors instead of welcoming them and we wondered where folks who want to race in a more *no-holds-barred* type of way could do their thing.

We also noticed that the ever-emerging sportboat contingent would be better off in an organization that is familiar and welcoming of their designs. At XSracing.org the idea is that the racers themselves interact through the site to vote on change democratically. Sponsorship is encouraged instead of denied, which helps with prohibitive costs and we hope by loosening the rules and regs more people will enjoy racing, thereby attracting more players into the game. "We are about sailing first -where everyone participates - serious racers and average sailors all just getting out there and racing," said Randy Reynolds. "We think XS will be good for the sport of sailing."

Lastly, the site is also a news source. It's called XSracing - *Home for the High Performance Sailor* - and it focuses on racing news from all over the world. From the I-14 World Championships in Long Beach to the Velux 5 Oceans around the world solo challenge out of France, XSracing.org posts daily news and photographs on what's happening in our great sport. Make www.xsracing.org your homepage for up to date news on sailing.

We hope you all will come and be a part of our new direction and support it by visiting the site as much as possible. The response so far has been overwhelming and we're looking forward to having big numbers for our first start. After our launching a couple of months ago we're already over 200 members. It's free to join, so go to www.xsracing.org today and check it out. It's like a wise old man once said: "If you want to go yachting join a yacht club - if you want to go racing, join XS!"



POD Almighty

R33 owner Stan Christopher has taken delivery of the first R33 POD. When Stan first saw the R33 he loved it, but wanted something that we could take down the coast of Mexico and do some cruising. He asked Reynolds Design if they could customize an R33 for that purpose and after a little head scratching and some fabrication - voila - the POD. Amazingly the cruising R33 is still plenty fast.

“In her first race against three other R33s the Cruiser won boat for boat,” said Randy Reynolds who skippered the boat for the race. “The boat was just as fast as they were to weather and a little slower downwind but not enough to offset a good start and tactics. Reynolds added laughing: “The great part was that while we were winning one of the crew fired up the jacuzzi.”



SUNSET

The winds of 2006 have blown us in a new and different direction that we feel ultimately, will change things for the better. We can't allow clubs and organizations to thwart our mission of making fast and innovative boat designs. At Reynolds Design the envelope is constantly being pushed and if that scares some - so be it. We're not the first innovative company that has met resistance when raising the bar and won't be the last.

With the advent of XSracing.org the R33 and other sailors who are serious about racing will have a place to compete and race harder than they ever have with other racers who are just as serious. Check out the site and we'll see you out on the water.

