

A note on the first days of the 2007 Laser Masters Worlds by Halsey Bullen

The Masters Worlds are being held in Roses, Catalonia, Spain. This area northeast of Barcelona is known as the Costa Brava, or wild coast, of Spain. So far it hasn't been exactly wild, but the sailing has been very good. Roses is a beautiful old fishing town, rapidly transitioning into a tourist trap.

The winds on the first five days here were completely different. A howling northerly (the Tramonte) blew everyone off the water on Thursday, a 15-18 knot Southeasterly filled in Friday, light winds on Saturday, and back to East southeast 15-17 knots on Sunday, the first day of racing, followed by southeast 12-15 on Monday. Onshore winds bring long rollers and short chop of 2 to 3 feet, fun downwind but a puzzle upwind. A puzzle I have yet to solve, as you can see by my poor results in the Standard Grandmaster standings on [www.rosesworld2007.com](http://www.rosesworld2007.com).

So far the racing has been very good, marred only by some biased lines and the confusion between marks that is usual on a trapezoid course. Reaches have been a blast, literally.

The handful of women racing is greatly outnumbered by the 400 (yes, 400) guys racing in the seven divisions here. There are 75 on the line in my division alone. The guys make quite a statement, almost all are very fit; styles vary, but the shaved head Bruce Willis look and the fringe-bearded Captain Ahab look are both popular.

Cedar Point is represented by winter members Amnon Gitelson and Derek Stow and by former member Nigel Thomas, all of whom are doing better than I am but none are doing that well. Aussies are generally dominant, though 70-year-old American Peter Seidenberg is leading his group.

More to follow in the next four days of racing.

Halsey Bullen