

An Interview With: Glaser Sails

Mastering the Wind: Glaser Sails' Championship Journey with AzureDesign

In 2020, NACRA 17 sailors Ravi Parent and Riley Gibbs decided to cross-train on foiling A-cats. After some sailing, they approached us to help develop a new sail that would be easier to foil with and perform well across a wide range of conditions. Glaser Sails was a very small loft, just two people—Pease and Jay Glaser. Despite the size, they have a rich history in the A-class, being past North American Champions and their sails having won World Championships as well.

The main for a foiling A-cat needs to be very versatile since each sailor is allowed to measure just one sail for a regatta. It has to be powerful enough to get the cat on its foils in marginal conditions downwind, and then flatten sufficiently to reduce drag when going 20 knots upwind in 18 knots true wind.

Glaser Sails started this project by asking Riley and Ravi to come up with their ideal planform and shape profile. Based on past experience and using the new SMAR software AzureDesign, Glaser Sails developed a V1 sail. This sail featured a much longer lower foot than previous A-cat deck seal mains. AzureDesign's ability to include a deck seal in the finished design made the initial design process easier.

Another advantage of the software was its utility in building sails to sail area box rules using the measurement functions, which also proved helpful for building Formula 18 sails and International 14 sails.

Having two great sailors on identical platforms, sailing in ideal conditions in Long Beach, and providing valuable feedback, made it easy to move forward quickly. Using AzureDesign on subsequent versions, Glaser were able to make small, accurate changes in camber distribution, twist profile, and luff curve, eventually arriving at a version that satisfied the sailors.

Ravi won and Riley finished 3rd in the 2022 A-Class World Championships in Houston, Texas.

Ravi and Riley were both thrilled with their speed using the V5 sails in a wide range of often challenging sailing conditions.



Glaser Sails extends its gratitude to Dimension/Polyant, the creators of the Technora laminate utilised in Glaser Sails A-cat sails. Over the past 18 years, D/P has been an invaluable partner, contributing to Glaser Sails success in various projects, including multiple World Championships in the International 14 and 505 classes

Jay and Pease retired in 2023 after 50+ years of sailmaking, and Dominic Marchal continues to build sails to their designs at the same location under Marchal Sails.

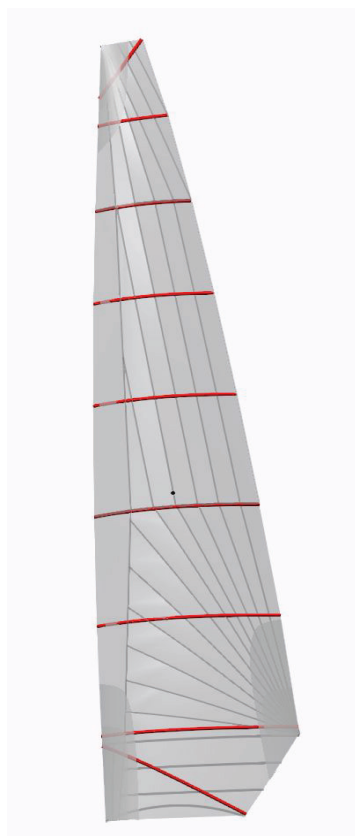


Jay Glaser

Sailmaker and owner of Glaser Sail



SMAR Azure develops innovative software solutions for the marine industry, working as technological partners to meet the needs and requirements of the industry



A-cat software view



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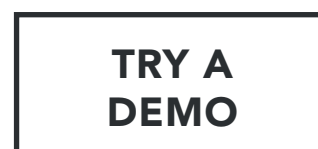
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