

Melges 24 USA

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association Volume 1 • Issue 4 • Fall 2004

2004 King's Day Regatta



November 19-21, 2004 • Jacksonville, Florida

A BIG THREE EVENT

The **King's Day Regatta** is by far, one of the best events to attend if you own a Melges 24. The regatta is held in sunny Jacksonville, Florida and hosted by the **Florida Yacht Club (thefloridayachtclub.org)**. This regatta is number one of the big three! The big three includes: **King's Day Regatta**, **Key West Race Week** and **St. Petersburg NOOD**. Top scores accumulated from these three mega-Melges 24 events can make you the next Melges 24 Mid-Winter Champion! You have to participate in all three regattas in order to wrap up the title and take it home.

A competitive fleet of twenty or more Melges 24s at the **King's Day Regatta** is not uncommon. This regatta is quickly becoming a premiere Melges 24 Southeast event. How premiere you ask? The FYC is proud to present Gary Jobson as guest speaker for the event. Since 1994, Jobson has been the National Chairman of The Leukemia Cup Regatta and is a world class sailor, television commentator, author and corporate advisor

based in Annapolis, MD. He has won many championships in one design classes, including the America's Cup with Ted Turner in 1977, the infamous Fastnet Race and many of the world's ocean races. He has led ambitious expeditions to the Arctic, Antarctica and Cape Horn.

Jobson won the Nathanael G. Herreshoff Trophy in 1999, an award given annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the sport of sailing in the United States. He was also inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame in 2003.

He has been ESPN's Sailing Commentator since 1985 and produces more than 30 shows per year. In 1988, Jobson won an Emmy for his coverage of yachting at the Olympics in South Korea.

Jobson has given lectures around the world over the past 25 years. He has authored 12 sailing books and is

Editor-at-Large of Sailing World and Cruising World magazines. His latest published book is Fighting Finish, a look at the 2001-02 Volvo Ocean Race. Gary is part of the broadcast team that covered sailing events at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.

The **King's Day Regatta** is a well-organized event and delivers a professional race committee every time. Pair that with a relaxed atmosphere, great sailing conditions, beautiful club facilities (perfect for visiting families) and you have the perfect combination for a fun regatta.

For more information, contact:

- **John McCranie, Club Manager**
john.mccranie@thefloridayachtclub.org
- **Henry Mullen, Sail Captain**
(904) 387-4467
- **Skip Miller, Waterfront & Sail Director**
skip.miller@thefloridayachtclub.org
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Photos Pierrick Contin



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CREDITS & CONTRIBUTORS

Design:JOY Advertising (www.joysavannah.com)

Photography:.....Pierrick Contin, Michelle Krembel

Contributing Writers:Fiona Brown, Andy Burdick, Joy Dunigan, Scott Gregory, Jeff Jones

Advertising and Sponsorship Inquiries:Contact JOY Advertising for a Media Kit at (912) 756-7992 or via email at joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com

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Texas NOOD

September 24-26, 2004 * Galveston Bay, Texas * www.sailingworld.com

The **Texas NOOD** is the last of nine NOOD (National Offshore One Design) regattas hosted by *Sailing World Magazine* taking place September 24-26 in Galveston Bay, Texas at the **Lakewood Yacht Club**. The Melges 24 Fleet is always out in full force at the NOOD regattas and this will be no exception. Look forward to seeing the likes of Gulf Coast District Governor, Matt Mayo *USA-036 Trick Monkey*, Mark Scher *USA-479 Shiraz*, Scott Baker *USA-200 Nobody's Girl* and Mark Bryan *USA-1 Barking Dog* just to name a few.

The Gulf Coast Melges 24 Fleet and region is a very active and growing fleet of highly-competitive sailors. They are enthusiastic about the Melges 24 and their participation at many events around the country is proof of their enthusiasm.

For more information about this regatta and the 2005 NOOD Regatta Racing Series check out *Sailing World's* Web site at www.sailingworld.com. A Notice Of Race as well as daily reports, entry lists and full results can also be found on their Web site.



©Pierriek Contin Photography

Fall One Design Regatta

October 9-10, 2004 * San Francisco, California * sfyc.org



© Pierriek Contin Photography

The **Fall One Design Regatta** in San Francisco, California is another fantastic must sail event on the West Coast in the Melges 24. The event is being held on October 9-10, graciously hosted and sponsored by the **San Francisco Yacht Club (sfyc.org)**. With its tranquil setting in Belvedere Cove and superb harbor, the SFYC is widely recognized as the premier yachting facility on the West Coast.

The Melges 24 Fleets, 8 & 11 based in San Francisco (sfmelges24.com), is 10 boats+ strong and gladly welcomes everyone to attend this outstanding, one design regatta. They are a great crowd to sail with and a lot of fun. Not to mention, highly competitive. This regatta will offer some of the most exciting Melges 24 sailing in the world. Take advantage of high winds, currents, and waves, these challenging conditions provide year-round sailing in a beautiful setting. So what are you waiting for? Be sure to make it to San Francisco in October. With fleets of Melges 24s in Lake Tahoe, Santa Cruz and many more throughout Southern California and the Pacific Northwest there is

no excuse not to attend this world class event. It's the perfect way to wind down the 2004 Melges 24 racing season with a West Coast rush.

For more information go to the **San Francisco Yacht Club's** Web site or contact the race office by phone at **(415) 789-5647**. Founded in 1869, the San Francisco Yacht Club is the oldest club on the Pacific Coast of North America and their site is packed full of info about the **Fall One Design Regatta**. It contains details about club facilities, contacts and a comprehensive racing calendar so you can plan your personal Melges 24 schedule as events are posted.

Also, be sure to check out the regularly updated San Francisco Melges 24 Fleet Web site. This site is also very informative delivering the latest and greatest of happenings, events and goings on. The West Coast Region also has a home on the USMCA Web site at melges24.com/usmca/fleets/westcoast.asp. As the Melges 24 2005 racing circuit schedule is confirmed, you will see it here first!

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We are moving our operation in January 2005, so everything must go. We will be working our stock down methodically, so keep checking back for the latest deals on the best stuff.

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Photo courtesy Jim Kransberger

2005 Melges 24 World Championship Ocean Reef Club • Key Largo, Florida

The **2005 Melges 24 World Championship** will take place at the exclusive **Ocean Reef Club** in Key Largo, Florida. Racing will take place from December 12-16, 2005 with registration starting on Friday, December 9th.

The **Ocean Reef Club** is one of the most beautiful private communities in Florida. The Club is famous for its luxurious accommodations, outstanding facilities, world-class restaurants, superb sailing conditions and very, very special atmosphere. This is the first time the club has extended an invitation to host a major sailing championship and the International Melges 24 Class Association is delighted to be the recipient of this inaugural opportunity.

Karen Gottwald *USA-137 Cagay* and Dick Jennings (Ocean Reef Member) are co-chairmen of the USMCA Management Committee for the 2005 Worlds. **Karen Gottwald** or **Dick Jennings** can be contacted via email Karen.Gottwald@cit.com or Dick@smithereen.com.

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The third annual **Ocean Reef Regatta** will be held on December 10-12, 2004. This will be a great opportunity to experience Ocean Reef's excellent sailing venue prior to the 2005 World Championship event.



Ocean Reef Regatta

December 10-12, 2004 • Key Largo, Florida • www.oceanreef.com

The **Ocean Reef Regatta**, held December 10-12 brings new meaning to Christmas time in the Keys. Now in its third year, this annual regatta was once an invitational event, but not anymore! It's open to any Melges 24 team who is interested in participating, especially those of you who are planning to attend the **2005 Melges 24 World Championship**, December 12-16, 2005. This is the first time ever The **Ocean Reef Club** (oceanreef.com) has graciously extended an invitation to host a major sailing championship and the International Melges 24 Class Association is delighted to be the recipient of this inaugural invitation.

Located at the edge of the Atlantic, the **Ocean Reef Club** is one of the most beautiful and exclusive Florida communities. With its lush, tropical surroundings the Club offers luxurious accommodations, world-class restaurants and perfect for friends and families.

As if the event isn't irresistible enough, they are offering accommodations at a special sailors rate. The **Ocean Reef Club** is extending substantially discounted



rates for accommodations located within the Club's premises. To make the trip complete, special fishing (offshore or flats) and golf (18 or 9 holes) packages are also available. To receive a brochure of types of accommodations and locations, make reservations (let them know you are with the Melges 24 regatta), set-up a fishing trip or arrange a tee time contact **Kelli Bower, Ocean Reef Melges 24 Event Coordinator** at (305) 367-5897 or via email at kmelges@oceanreef.com. A map of Ocean Reef is available upon request. A NOR and

special Ocean Reef Invite package is also available online at the USMCA Web site, melges24.com/usmca.

For more information about this event or the **2005 World Championship** contact **Karen Gottwald, US Class Vice President** USA-137 Cagey via email at Karen.Gottwald@cit.com or **Dick Jennings** (Ocean Reef Member) via email at Dick@smithereen.com. Both are co-chairmen of the United States Melges 24 Management Committee for the 2005 Worlds.

Key West Race Week

A BIG THREE EVENT

January 17-23, 2005 • Key West, Florida • www.premiere-racing.com



The ever-popular, always anticipated **Key West Race Week** will be here before you know it. This regatta is the very first of three events scheduled for 2005 presented by **Premiere Racing!** Held in sunny Key West, Florida every year during the third week of January, this is one event you can always count on being a lot of fun. It is an opportunity to get in five, fun-filled days of racing competition against a host of Melges 24 superstars such as Flavio Favini, 2004 KWRW Champions Sebastian Col & Philippe Ligot, Jeff Ecklund, Brian Porter, Harry Melges, Argyle Campbell, Vince Brun, Bruce Ayres, Luca Santella, Kristian Nergaard, Philippe and Shark Kahn. All of the above have been known to frequent the warm waters of Florida in a quest to capture one of the most coveted Melges 24 titles on the US and International racing circuit — that of Key West Race Week Champion!

Over the past few years, the Melges 24 Fleet has been the largest class in attendance. The sun, crystal-clear water and warm gulf air is definitely something to look forward to. It is also the second event of the big three

series! The big three includes: **King's Day Regatta**, **Key West Race Week** and **St. Petersburg NOOD**. Top scores accumulated from these three mega-Melges 24 events can make you the next Melges 24 Mid-Winter Champion! You have to participate in all three regattas in order to be crowned with the title.

When planning your 2005 schedule make **Key West Race Week** the first stop on the list. It's also a lot of fun for the family. There are great hotels, fantastic dining, shopping, art galleries and lots of sites to see. Key West possesses some of Florida's most beautiful beaches, waterfronts and much, much, more.

For more information, go to premiere-racing.com. A Notice of Race, entry forms, full reports and results are always available well in advance of the event.

Next stop on the **Premiere-Racing** event schedule is the very first annual **2005 Miami Race Week, The SORC Renaissance** to be raced on Biscayne Bay in March of 2005. This event is sure to be first-class.



Sailing photographs by Daniel Forster (top) and Boatpix.com (bottom). Miami photographs provided by Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau www.gmcb.com

Miami Race Week 2005

March 11–13, 2005

- The Melges 24 Class Returns!
- 3 Days of Racing (Friday – Sunday)
- Biscayne Bay Course
- Miami Beach Nightlife
- Headquarters and Launch / Haul / Raft at Shake-A-Leg Miami facilities
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- Notice of Race available in October

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The SORC Renaissance



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Fleet Report: Southeast Region

Scott Gregory, *USA-378 Team Satisfaction* * sgregory@brockclay.com * **Southeast District Governor**

I want to thank everyone who traveled to Charleston, South Carolina for the **US Gold Cup**. The competition was tight and the conditions enormously difficult (at least for *Team Satisfaction*). *Grins* and *Beelzabubba* seemed to have a crystal ball for the conditions and sailed a fantastic regatta. They sailed well with consistent speed, along with Doug Kessler's all star team from **Quantum Sails** of John Bertrand, Scott Nixon and Justin Chambers. The **US Gold Cup Championship** was not decided until Sunday morning with John Lucas and John Durlach on *Beelzabubba* leading *Grins* and *Liberty 3* by a slim margin going into the 6th and final race. The firm of Burke & Burke read the conditions correctly winning the last race and the **US Gold Cup Championship**. Congratulations to the *Grins* team of Shawn Burke, Steve Burke, David Chapin and Skip Canfield *USA-526*. It also was good to see Neil Sullivan and *M-Factic* back on the water. Neil has a new boat and had a solid regatta finishing fourth overall. Special thanks go to Ryan Hamm and crew for their exceptional efforts in hosting the **Gold Cup** regatta. Ryan, Hal Smith (PRO) and the members of the

Charleston Yacht Club set a new bench mark for all Melges 24 regattas. A full write-up is available at www.melges24.com/usmca. Joy Dunigan has done a fantastic job updating the US Melges 24 Web site and keeping the fleet information current and updated. We greatly appreciate her commitment and talents. If you have not met Joy, please introduce yourself at one of the many regattas she attends across the US.

At the moment, Ryan Hamm and Co. on *When Pigs Fly* are leading the SE Circuit rankings by a slim margin. Ryan's team has the boat moving extremely well and has finished in the money at local and national regattas this year. Trailing closely behind Ryan are the teams of *Lamorak*, *Minnetonka*, *Grins*, *Beelzabubba*, *Wireless*, *Nobody's Girl* and *Team Satisfaction*. The SE Circuit has enjoyed the tightest racing to date with a substantial increase in participation and competition. The next stop on the race calendar is Pensacola, Florida and the **WFORC** (West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit) on October 16th and 17th. Pensacola Bay is a fantastic venue. Normal temperatures are in the low 80's with a 10-17

knot sea breeze in protected waters. Pensacola Yacht Club does a fantastic job with race committee and the parties. The Melges 24 class is treated exceptionally well with their own course (for all purposes). Then its on to **Melbourne Race Week** at the Melbourne Yacht Club, Melbourne, Florida, October 23-24. Melbourne Yacht Club does a fantastic job with well over 10 boats in attendance last year. The last opportunity to put points on the board for the SE Circuit is Jacksonville. The Florida Yacht Club and Pat Lambert host the ever popular **Kings Day Regatta**. The date for the event has changed to November 19th, 20th and 21st. This regatta provides an excellent opportunity for the best sailors in the Southeast and US to come together (prior to Key West) to see where they stand in the fleet. It is one of the best regattas in the Southeast and is the first stop of the Winter Series Championship. Past champions of this event read like a "who's who" of the Melges 24 class.

For more information about all other events in the Southeast District, contact **Scott Gregory** via email at sgregory@brockclay.com.

2005 Melges 24 European Championship Royal Torbay Yacht Club • Torquay, UK

The **2005 Melges 24 European Championship** will take place at the **The Royal Torbay Yacht Club** in Torquay, England. Racing will take place from Monday, September 19 to Friday, September 23 with registration commencing on September 16, 2005.

The **Royal Torbay Yacht Club** hosted the first ever Melges 24 World Championship in 1998 and the class is delighted to be returning to this outstanding venue. Torquay, located in South West England, regularly hosts large championships and their expertise and facilities are second-to-none. As home to the UK's largest Melges 24 fleet and the venue for many of the **UK National Championships** as well as the 1998 Melges 24 Worlds, the Royal Torbay Yacht Club's team know exactly how to keep the Melges 24 sailors happy both on and off the water.

Now is the time to plan to make this fantastic event! **Adrian Peach** *GBR-477 UK Panasonic* is heading the United Kingdom Melges 24 Class Management Committee for the 2005 Europeans. Adrian can be contacted via email adrian@ukkaraoke.co.uk.



Interview: Mike Dow

Mike Dow, USA-513 Flying Toaster * mdow@chartermi.net * Midwest District Governor



Midwest District Governor, 2004 Chicago NOOD Champion and Ugatta Regatta Winner, Mike Dow took a few moments to talk with M24*USA.

M24*USA: How old were you when you started sailing and what other classes of boats did you learn to sail on?

MD: I started Sunfish sailing when I was 10 and my parents raced Lightnings at the Higgins Lake Boat Club, in Northern Michigan. When I was 12, Sunfish racing ruled and the local fleet was really fun. At 14 or 15 I moved up to the Lightning... those were the days. I had 2 bikini girls for crew. My crew is much better these days — no where near as good to look at... anyways. Then the drivers license came along and I headed out for my first Lightning travel regatta in Pontiac, Michigan on Cass Lake. From there the Lightning travel events just became a part of life. My dad and I got invited to sail in the 1978 J/24 North Americans which led to us getting our own boat. That started 18 years of J/24 sailing. Starting with my dad, and then just me, then whom ever I could recruit. Somewhere in the middle of all this I found time to sailboard.

M24*USA: How long have you had your Melges 24 and what turns you on most about it?

MD: I went to Lake Geneva for the annual J/24 fall event like I did every year and sold the J/24 on Sunday. On the way home with one of my crew Rich Core, we made a little detour in Wisconsin and came home with a Melges 24, USA-128. That was in the fall of 1996. In 2001, I bought my current boat USA-513 Flying Toaster.

The Melges 24 turn on is all about going fast downwind to me. Sailboard mentality, head whatever direction is the fastest which is always the most fun.

M24*USA: What are your top three Melges 24 speed tips?

MD: 1) Don't over trim the sails. Ease them out and go fast. Sheet tension makes huge differences. 2) Don't focus on making rig adjustments all the time. Sail at par most of the time. 3) Change gears with the backstay.

M24*USA: What preparations did you make that lead to your success this year, for example at the Chicago NOOD, Ugatta Regatta, Muskegon?

MD: Simple things. Know where par is by the numbers on your turnbuckles so you can go back to it exactly whenever needed. Have a very clean bottom. Nothing extra on the boat except required equipment and keep it bailed out. Avoid making big mistakes. For NOOD regattas and [UGotta Regatta](#) traffic management is key. Judging what to do with many different boats converging of different sizes, speeds and crew abilities.

M24*USA: Do you sail with the same crew at every event?

MD: I have several crew members that have sailed with me over the years. Many are from J/24 days and switched over when I did. Rich Core has jib trimmed on different boats with me since 1986. Rich is very observant of height and speed of other boats so we can adjust quickly. Gregg Diehl has been on the bow for years and can set, gybe, douse in his sleep. Brad Savage, our big hiker, trimmer and total team player, always says "Hey guys, does that matter?" when we get distracted. And, Bob Clark who sails Melges USA-13. He is also our Wednesday night competition. These guys make up the 'standard' travel team and we almost always sail with 4. Many others fill in as needed such as Dave Guba, Tom Babel, my son Alden, Patrick Gerber, and others.

M24*USA: To date, what has been your greatest experience on the Melges 24?

MD: There have been many great regattas, too many single out a individual event. There was this Sunday this spring in a PHRF race where it was really blowing hard from the South in Traverse City. Super flat water and going as fast as I have ever gone in the boat, when this puff hit and buried the bow. We kind of tripped over the bow for a total wipe out. We almost lost the cooler. My daughter even thought it was cool... that was a fun day for sure. The fun and great experiences I'm having in the Melges 24 are far from over. It's a thrill to be able to

experience exciting moments with your kids who get the same charge out of it as you do.

M24*USA: The Midwest Fleet is one of the strongest in the US. The number of boats and the level of talent is increasing. What do you attribute as the cause for such great regional class growth and where do you see it all going?

MD: One big step was the internet. Not having to mail out NOR's and announcements, communication is easier and free. So, it can happen as often as necessary. We got events into a time slot and kept them there. It can take several years to really solidify an event. Fleet growth on the local level is the overall goal. We took potential boat owners out as crew. Another big step was the 1999 US Nationals. That really got people's attention in the Midwest. We have the right people in the boats so the events are raced hard but friendly and fun onshore. Why travel if you aren't having any fun? That is what it is all about. Another thing is to have race winners around, talking to people and answering questions. Helping the middle to back of the fleet finishers get better is key to fleet growth. Keeping interest is important. This helps attract new boat owners too. In the last year I have sailed one event and 3 different evening races on other peoples boats. I learn and so do they. I only wish I had more time to do this. Try it, it's great fun and goes a long way towards fleet interest and participation.

M24*USA: The 2005 World Championship in Key Largo, Florida next year is going to be awesome. Are you going to be there? If so, what are you going to do to better prepare your team mentally and physically for the challenge ahead?

MD: Flying Toaster will be there! We don't have a written training plan to speak of, just a general way of doing things. We always pay attention and to learn what works, what doesn't, when and why. It will also be important to have the perspective that we haven't "peaked" as a team before the event. The big trick is to "peak" at the right times. We'll be aggressive while at the same time avoiding low percentage decisions. We'll make sure everyone on the team is having some fun. We'll enjoy what the venue offers and not get too serious. The sport is Yacht Racing. We will bring our game to the starting line with a smile and enjoy every minute of the event on the water and off. Above all, we'll go fast as possible, call on all the karma and let loose all the mojo our team has.

Mike, thanks so much for sharing your insight with us and good luck to you and your Flying Toaster crew for a fantastic 2005 racing season!

2004 - 2005 Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
NATIONAL POINTS EVENTS			
09/24 - 09/26	2004 North American Championship	Lake St. Clair, Detroit, MI	Jeff Jones • jeff@kilroysailing.com
REGATTAS			
09/24 - 09/26	Texas NOOD	Galveston, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/01 - 10/03	Ol' Man of the Sea	Ft. Worth, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/09 - 10/10	Melges 24 Lake Geneva Fall Championship	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • AIB45@aol.com
10/09 - 10/10	Fall One Design Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
10/15 - 10/17	WFORC	Pensacola, FL	Scott Gregory • sgregory@brockclay.com
10/23 - 10/24	Melbourne Race Week	Melbourne, FL	Andy Burdick • AIB45@aol.com
11/19 - 11/21	Kings Day Regatta* (1)	Jacksonville, FL	Scott Gregory • sgregory@brockclay.com
12/10 - 12/12	Ocean Reef Regatta	Key Largo, FL	Karen Gottwald • Karen.Gottwald@cit.com
2005 REGATTAS			
01/17 - 01/23	Key West Race Week* (2)	Key West, FL	premiere-racing.com
02/?? - 02/??	St. Petersburg NOOD* (3)	St. Petersburg, FL	sailingworld.com
03/11 - 03/13	Miami Race Week (A SORC RENAISSANCE)	Key Biscayne, FL	premiere-racing.com
09/19 - 09/23	Melges 24 European Championship	Torquay, UK	Adrian Peach • adrian@ukkaraoke.co.uk
12/12 - 12/16	Melges 24 World Championship	Key Largo, FL	Karen Gottwald • Karen.Gottwald@cit.com

* 2004 - 2005 MID-WINTER EVENTS "THE BIG 3"

2004 Hall of Fame

Key West Race Week *	Philippe Ligot (FRA)	Detroit NOOD	Chuck Holzman
St. Petersburg NOOD*	Doug Fisher	Chicago NOOD*	Mike Dow
Charleston Race Week	John Lucas & Marcus Durlach	Toronto NOOD	-
San Diego NOOD*	Sheldon Ecklund	North Sails Race Week	Bruce Ayres
Lakefest Regatta	Matt Mayo	Pacific Coast Championship*	Shark Kahn
Lukemia Cup	Matt Mayo	Atlantic Coast Championship*	Travis Weisleder
Annapolis NOOD*	Joe Pollard (GBR)	US Gold Cup*	Shawn Burke
US National Championship*	Luca Santella (ITA)	North American Championship*	TBD
Southeast Inland Championship	Ryan Hamm		

* North American/World Ranking Points Events

CONTACT INFORMATION

President & IMCA Vice Chairman (US) **Jeff Jones** * jeff@kilroysailing.com
53455 Bellamine, Shelby Township, MI 48316 * (248) 652-7244

Vice President **Karen Gottwald** * Karen.Gottwald@cit.com
1415 North Deerborn, Unit 19, Chicago, IL 60610 * (847) 612-0593

Secretary: Membership Inquiries **Andy Burdick** * AIB45@aol.com
P.O. Box 1, Zenda, WI 53195 * (262) 275-1110

Technical Committee Chairman **Wayne Pignolet** * wpignolet@ebuild.com
15 East Nap Lane Annapolis, MD 21401 * (410) 757-6038

Gulf Coast **Matt Mayo** * mamayo@flashnet.net

Midwest **Mike Dow** * mdow@traverse.com

Northeast **John Kimura** * jkimura@sensoriuminc.com

Northwest **TBD**

Southeast **Scott Gregory** * sgregory@brockclay.com

West Coast **TBD**

Class Communications (Print & Web) **Joy Dunigan**
1702 B Highway 17 South, Richmond Hill, GA 31324
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