

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association Volume 2 • Issue 2 • Spring 2005

USMCA Acquires National Class Sponsorship



Every once in a while opportunity reveals itself and this year for the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association, it seems to be just around every corner. Initially, there was the intense task of restructuring and reorganizing the Executive Committee and establishing a more unified Board of Governors. This resulted in the very first ever adopted USMCA Constitution, online Membership renewal capabilities, increased Corinthian registration, higher regatta participation and now...

The USMCA is proud to announce a National Class Sponsorship agreement with **Carloan.com**, a top-rated online financial services company (member of the Interactive Financial Marketing Group, LLC). The USMCA Executive Committee was approached at the 2005 St. Petersburg NOOD Regatta by Travis Weisleder,

President of Carloan.com, with a very generous sponsorship proposal. "I am very passionate about the USMCA and sailing the Melges 24. I think that it is one of the best rides out there today. In looking at what other Classes are able to do in promotion and running good, solid events; one of the key elements was a sponsor to help defray the costs of all involved, but most importantly they have good promotion and Class awareness," Weisleder commented. "The Class efforts have been solid, but I think we can still do more."

"We are honored to have Carloan.com as our very first major National sponsor for the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association." said Karen Gottwald, US Class President. "Travis' endless dedication to the Melges 24 Class and hardwork is second-to-none. This is a win-win situation

for all parties involved. We are looking forward to working with our new partner."

Carloan.com has been named as the title sponsor of the 2005 U.S. Melges 24 National Championship, April 29 - May 1 in Annapolis, Maryland USA.

"I felt very comfortable in sponsoring the USMCA as the direction they are going in is the correct and proper path when your business grows and gets bigger; there are now over 615 boats worldwide." said Weisleder. "We are lucky to have all of the fine people on the USMCA Executive Committee as each brings their own professional discipline to the Class, which we desperately needed in order to invoke change, grow, stay organized, and empower U.S. Melges 24 Owners and Class members."



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Detroit NOOD

NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVEN

June 3-6, 2005 * Detroit, MI * www.sailingworld.com

It's about that time again in the Midwest! Time for plenty of sailing, especially now that Spring has sprung.

The Melges 24 Midwest racing circuit is firing up! The race season commences with the **2005 One Design Regatta** in Muskegon, Michigan in May, then on to Detroit on June 3-6 for the NOOD Regatta — North American Ranking Event number five. The Regatta will be hosted by the Bayview Yacht Club, and out in full force we can expect at least a dozen teams to register the minute the NOR is released. It is the first of three back-to-back NOOD Regattas in the Midwest Region. Following respectively is the **Chicago NOOD**, then two weeks later in Toronto, Canada is the **Toronto NOOD**. So, if you can't make all three, perhaps you can make at least one as this very popular racing circuit travels the United States and Canada.

Visit Sailing World Magazine's Web site for more information at www.sailingworld.com. The M24 point-of-contact is Kevin Lewand. He can be reached via email at klewand@lewandcustomhomes.com.



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Ullman Sails Race Week

NORTH AMERICAN BANKING EVENT

June 24-26, 2005 * Long Beach, California * www.lbrw.org

Be sure to join the West Coast Melges 24 Fleet on June 24-26 for three days of the most incredible Melges 24 racing at the **2005 Ullman Sails Race Week** in Long Beach, California. The Alamitos Bay Yacht Club and the Long Beach Yacht Club have joined forces in order to make this Regatta one of the best this year!



The Race Committee volunteers are coming in from yacht clubs all over Southern California not to mention some of the best dinghy sailors on the West Coast have been enlisted to provide competitors with world-class race management. For the M24 Fleet the best of the best usually arrive on the scene including Bruce Ayres,



Philippe Kahn, West Coast District Governor Don Jesberg and 2004 North American Champion Argyle Campbell! Don't miss out on what is set to be a great event. Early entry deadline is May 31, 2005 and Sailing Instructions will be issued on June 01, 2005. For more information, visit www.lbrw.org.



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ON THE WEB: Event Participation List

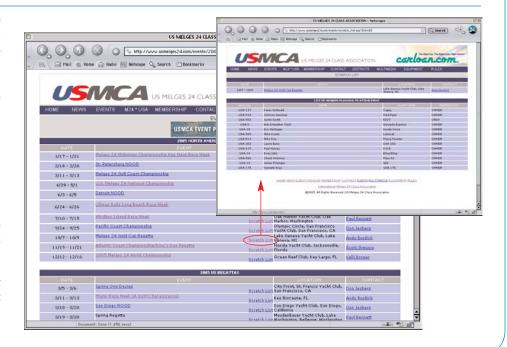
www.usmelges24.com/events/login.asp

The USMCA Event Participation List (EPL) is one of many hot new features on the U.S. M24 Web site. This feature was developed specifically to help you plan your racing schedules in advance. By going to the main EVENTS page, you can review Scratch Lists for each event, then determine per your own personal schedule by which events are most appealing.

If you haven't joined the EPL, go to the following link: http://www.usmelges24.com/events/login.asp

At this link, you can do one of two things, either login with your Username (your email address provided at the time of renewing your membership) and Password (the same as your login to the members only area if you are a 2005 USMCA Member), you can login and go to work plugging in which events you are most likely to attend.

For non-members, visit the same link above and register to participate! Not only is this feature a lot of fun, but it also gives you a chance to race with your friends and other top racers in the Melges 24 Class.



ON THE WEB: Online Membership Capabilities

www.usmelges24.com/membership/membership.asp



As of February 2005, Membership to the USMCA has been made super easy. You can go online at your leisure to renew an old membership or, activate a brand new one. There is a level of U.S. Membership that is just right for everyone — Owner, Partner, Driver/Charter and Associate/Crew. All USMCA memberships are valid from January 1 - December 31.

Many great things come along with the USMCA Membership. At an Owners level you receive a special National Class Melges 24 flag to fly from the backstay, access to the U.S. Members only area, Event Participation List access, photo galleries and stories daily from key U.S. events, professional photography for private purchase and Class promotion, M24*USA (published quarterly), and www.usmelges24.com. The site is updated weekly keeping you on top of upcoming events and Class announcements. You also automatically become a member of the International Melges 24 Class Association (IMCA) that includes full access to www.melges24.com and a copy of the current issue of M24 Yearbook.



Fleet Report: Northwest Region

Paul Bennett * paul_bennett@k2sports.com * Northwest District Governor



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The Pacific Northwest Melges 24 Fleet is back on the radar and would like to invite everyone to participate for the following events:

MELGES 24 CLINIC AND SEATTLE YACHT CLUB SOCKS REGATTA MAY 12-15, 2005

The PNW Melges 24 fleet is having a two day clinic on

May 12-13 and a then, a two day Regatta on May 14-15. This event is sponsored by the legendary Seattle Yacht Club, www.seattleyachtclub.org; North Sails, www.northsails.com and Quantum Sail Design Group www.quantumsail.com. America's cup, Melges 24 sailors, World Champions and Olympic medalists are all helping out by coaching at this event. Scheduled appear-

ances include Andrew Kerr, Brian Ledbetter, Mark Brink, Bob Pistay as well as many more well-known sailors. A full review of maintenance, tuning and trimming tips, a host of go-fast gadgets and equipment recommendations can be expected. This will be from the point of view from the trimmer on a recent World Champion team. Opinions about how to set up the boat, keep it sailing fast, and how to approach each wind/water and fleet scenario will also be discussed.

The event will end with two days of intense Melges 24 One Design racing at Seattle Yacht Clubs **SOCK's Regatta**. The event will be great and offer an fantastic opportunity for boat owners to get 4 days of excellent Melges 24 sailing in with a great group of sailors.

For more information about this event, or if you have any questions contact USMCA Northwest District Governor, Paul Bennett at (206) 819-4501 or via email at paul_bennett@k2sports.com, or Brian Ledbetter at the Seattle Yacht Club, (206) 328-7009.

2005 USMCA Mast Consignment Program



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Have you ever sailed your Melges 24 in 30 + knots of wind? Most likely the answer is yes. We are fortunate to have such an awesome boat with very limited equipment failures, however, if a mast were to break where and who can you and your crew rely on to help get you back out on the course?

What if you and your crew have taken a week of vacation to travel to a event such as Key West Race Week or, a World Championship and you loose your mast in the first few rounds to fierce weather conditions? You are immediately faced with trying to find solutions and resources that will allow you to keep sailing through the week and complete the Regatta. No

one ever wants to get caught in these situations, but who can you turn to when unfortunate situations occur?

Karen Gottwald, USMCA President and International M24 Vice Chairman was in Key West this past year. She saw weather circumstances that were intense and witnessed the need for crews to be able to rely on someone when this happens, and she thought — they should be able to rely on their Class Organization.

After presenting the idea and expressing the need for such a program at the 2005 USMCA AGM and with all in agreement that this would be beneficial, Karen met with Andy Burdick, Vice President of Melges Performance Sailboats and USMCA Builder Consultant to assemble a plan.

"This is something that needed to happen. We are thrilled to be working together with Melges." said Gottwald." One of the responsibilties of the Class is to ensure participants have a solution when they need one."

The 2005 **Carloan.com** Melges 24 U.S. National Championship is the first event where this revolutionary program kick's off.



Whidbey Island Race Week



July 10-15, 2005 * Oak Harbor, WA * www.whidbey.com/raceweek/

NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVENT

The Northwest is alive! Part of the Pacific Fleet revitalization includes a complete schedule of events that anticipates an abundance of top notch racing venues, clinics and some of the most influential and inspirational talents within the sailing world.

As you will see in the very first Fleet report for the Northwest (top, opposite page) that USMCA Northwest District Governor, Paul Bennett has a line-up that is second-to-none. The actual racing season began in March, however begins it really powers-up in May with the SOCKS Regatta on the 14-15. The Summer One Design Regatta follows a month later on June 11-10. Both events are great warm-ups to the 23rd Whidbey Island Race Week on July 10-15, 2005 — the Original Northwest Adult Summer Camp!

The 2005 Whidbey Island Race Week is number

seven in a series of eleven North American Ranking events. The Regatta offers five days of the most competitive racing in the Northwest, as well as great parties, rock and roll, volleyball, golf and the world famous Reggae Night! The event will be hosted out of the Oak Harbor Yacht Club in Oak Harbor, Washington. Free camping will be available on the Oak Harbor waterfront.

See the Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Web site at www.oakharborchamber.org. The Fleet contact for this event is USMCA Northwest District Governor, Paul Bennett via email at paul_bennett@k2sports.com. or contact Northwest Marine Productions, Inc., 2130 Westlake Ave N, Suite 3, Seattle, Washington 98109. Phone (206) 286-1004 Fax (206) 286-1353. Email: raceweek@sailnorthwest.com. 2005 WIRW Hot Line (206) 286-1004.

Corinthian Status

www.sailing.org

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN! SIGN UP NOW!

Despite the fact that all major IMCA events incorporate a Corinthian Division for amateur crews, very few Melges 24 teams are correctly registering their Corinthian status. With fabulous racing and great prizes to offer, those amateur crew who don't register are really missing out. So, take action now to ensure your Corinthian status for 2005! Here's how it works:

As an ISAF International Class the Melges 24 uses the ISAF Sailor Classification system to establish Corinthian status. Our Class Rules state that to qualify as a Corinthian Crew the helm of the boat must be an ISAF Group 1 sailor and that crewmembers can be either Group 1 or Group 2 sailors, but that no crewmember can be a Group 3 sailor. If you enter the Corinthian Division of an event, your crew list will be checked against the official online ISAF Sailor List to confirm each individuals status before your Corinthian entry is ratified.

Registering with ISAF and obtaining your Sailor Classification is a simple two-step, free of charge, online process and takes only a few minutes. Although some applications are processed immediately any queries can delay the registration process by several weeks so don't leave registering till the last minute. Remember — if anyone on your crew isn't listed on ISAF as either a Group 1 or Group 2 sailor we cannot accept your Corinthian entry!

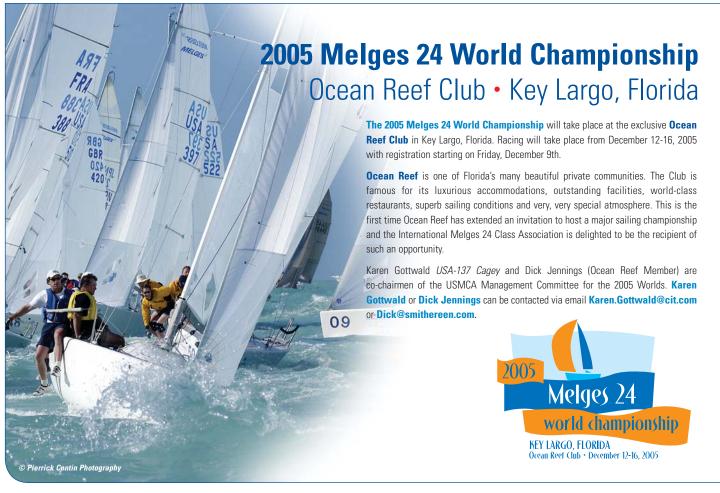
To obtain your Sailor Classification all you need to do is visit www.sailing.org, select the "Sailors" link on the main menu bar and go to "ISAF Sailor Classification". The first part of the process is to register your name and contact details with ISAF and the second part is to complete the ISAF Sailor Classification application form. If your application is straightforward your status will confirmed within minutes of submitting your application. If there are any queries on your application it will be referred to ISAF's Classification Authority for a decision and they may contact you to request additional information. This happens quite often with Group 2 and 3 sailors so it is essential to apply for your Classification well in advance.

For those of you who are already registered with ISAF it is also important to remember that your Classification is only valid for 2 years and needs to be renewed when it expires. Please check your entry on the ISAF Sailor list and if your Classification has expired, be sure to renew it as soon as possible.

Don't forget that all your crewmembers need to register, not just the helm!

As published in the 2005 M24 Yearbook.





Interview: Ryan Hamm

Ryan Hamm, USA-419 When Pigs Fly * ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com * Southeast District Governor



2005 USMCA Southeast District Governor, Ryan Hamm took time out of his busy schedule to speak

with M24*USA.

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

RH: Started racing in a Penguin at Hobcaw Yacht Club when I was 7. Did most of my early racing in the aerodynamic Aqua Cat followed by a good bit of time in the Hobie fleet. Took a pretty long break from racing during college and afterwards. I have really gotten the bug back in the last 10 years.

M24*USA: Who has been the most influential person for you when it comes to sailing the Melges 24 or sailing in general?

RH: My father, who passed away years back, originally got me into sailing and really supported the sport by getting involved, traveling and footing the bill. Every time I think of someone to thank for my sailing career he comes first. Now, my mother is very supportive and active in the sport. She is the Southeastern Governor in the Sunfish Fleet and motivates me to stay active in the sport for many years to come. She's great. She also sails pretty well in the Sunfish. Very inspiring.

M24*USA: What first attracted you to the M24?

RH: I grew up watching the E-Scow fleet and being intimidated by the size and speed. First time I got on one I was hooked. I owned 3 of them before my first M24. Melges makes a great design.

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

RH: This is my second Melges 24. LS Carper and myself bought USA-95, Bad Influence, about 4 or 5 years ago. I am turned on by the speed and the great sailors who participate in the fleet. I also like that I can race it One Design and PHRF locally. I can travel to many places. It is as versatile a boat as I have ever raced.

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

RH: 1.) Practice on small dingies as much as possible because it will translate into better boat handling in your Melges 24. 2.) Surround yourself with a good crew that is max weight or close to max weight. 3.) Read the tuning guide.

M24*USA: Where is your favorite place to sail?

RH: I hate to be such a hometown kind of person but Charleston is the best place that I have ever sailed. We have a challenging current. We have great sailing conditions all year. When most places have no wind in the summer we get a sea breeze almost every afternoon that is 10 to 15 knots (yeah it's hot). My second favorite would probably be Annapolis because of how active the sailing community is there and it is a great town to visit.

M24*USA: You won the 2004 Southeast Inland Championship and did really well in Charleston at the Gold Cup. Combined, they earned you and your team the title of 2004 SAYRA (South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association) One Design Champions in the M24 Class. You ranked in the ninth overall on the 2004 North American Ranking. What preparations did you make that lead to your success?

RH: LS and I have a great crew. We do some practice (not enough) but we race often. Next year our biggest change I hope will be more practice. We schedule in advance to assure the right crew can make the event. We replace things when they need replacing. Sails is probably our big lacking against some of the pros. We can't replace our sails every event so we try to take real good care of what we have so they last.

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

RH: We have a core crew of six and a couple of alternates, that make up the total five that crew. We schedule a year in advance and put people on the schedule early to avoid problems. Charleston has more

and more great sailors settling down here each year after leaving the College of Charleston which has helped us a great deal.

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

RH: It is hard to pin that one down because this year has been incredible for us. If I had to come up with one item it would be our 4th place out of 30+ boats in St. Pete NOOD. The first three boats were professionals including Doug Fisher of Ullman Sails, the GILL Boat, and John Pollard of Westaway Sails. That was by far the best our crew has ever performed together in all types of conditions and it showed in our score.

M24*USA: The Southeast Regional Melges 24 Fleet is one of the strongest in the US. The number of boats and 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?

RH: There are several big fleets down here but the Atlanta fleet has got to be the catalyst that keeps it going. They go to everyone else's events without a lot of reciprocation. Doug Kessler followed by Scott Gregory as Southeastern governors did a great job supporting the entire Southeast and travelling to events. They have been involved for a long time and do whatever necessary to keep the fleet going strong. The Charleston Fleet is filled with talent from top to bottom and when they travel (not enough) they do a great job. Interestingly enough the Annapolis fleet has added to our numbers in the past year with Bill Blank, Travis Weisleder and others travelling south for several of our stronger events. In the future I hope the M24 class keeps growing and if the turnout at this year's SE Circuit regattas and Key West is any indication of the future and now, the 2005 Worlds in Key Largo I think we are in for another banner year in 2005

M24*USA: The 2005 World Championship in Key Largo, Florida next year is going to be awesome. Are you going to be there?

RH: Key Largo 2005. Wouldn't miss it!

Thank you Ryan for taking time to talk to us, and good luck to you in the 2005 sailing season!*



2005 U.S. Event Schedule

DATE		EVENT	LOCATION	CONTAC
IORTH AN	ЛERICA	N RANKING POINTS EVENTS		
06/03 -	06/05	Detroit NOOD	Detroit, MI	Kevin Lewand • klewand@lewandcustomhomes.cor
06/24 -	06/26	Ullman Sails Long Beach Race Week	Long Beach, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.cor
07/10 -	07/15	Whidbey Island Race Week	Oak Harbor, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.cor
09/24 -	09/25	Pacific Coast Championship	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.cor
10/07 -	10/09	Melges 24 Gold Cup Regatta	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • AIB45@aol.cor
11/19 -	11/21	Atlantic Coast Championship / King's Day Regatta	Jacksonville, FL	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.cor
12/12 -	12/16	World Championship	Key Largo, FL	www.melges24.com/2005world
EGATTAS	;			
04/29 -	05/01	Annapolis NOOD	Annapolis, MD	Bill Blank • bblank@tsm1.cor
05/14 -	05/15	Elite Keel	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.cor
05/13 -	05/15	Southeast Inland Championship	Lake Lanier, GA	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.cor
05/14 -	05/15	•		• –
05/21 -	05/22	Jamie Boeckel Memorial Regatta	Oyster Bay Long Island, NY	Simon Strauss • sstrauss@damgcapital.com
05/28 -	05/29	•		
06/11 -	06/12	Delta Ditch Run	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
06/17 -	06/19	Chicago NOOD	Chicago, IL	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.com
07/30 -	07/31	Albert Simon Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
07/30 -	07/31	Little Traverse Invitational	Harbor Springs, MI	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.com
08/06 -	08/07	Gorge One Design	Cascade Locks, OR	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
08/13 -	08/14	Summer Keel Boat Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
08/20 -	08/21	Melges 24 Charleson Harbor Challenge	Charleston, SC	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.co
08/27 -	08/28	Grand Traverse Yacht Club Invitational	Traverse City, MI	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.com
08/27 -	08/28	One Design Event	Santa Cruz, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
09/03 -	09/04	Pitch Regatta	Bellingham, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.co
09/03 -	09/04	Labor Day Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
09/03 -	09/04	Red Fox Regatta	Charlevoix, MI	Marty Jensen • searaymarty@yahoo.co
09/17 -	09/18	Star and Bar Regatta	Seattle, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.co
09/23 -	09/24	Texas NOOD	Seabrook, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.ne
10/09 -	10/10	Fall One Design Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
10/15 -	10/16	West Coast Ocean Racing Circuit (WFORC)	Pensacola, FL	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.co
10/15 -	10/16	PSSC Regatta	Seattle, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.co
10/22 -	10/23	Melbourne Race Week	Melbourne, FL	Michael Nulf • mnulf@cfl.rr.coi
11/04 -	11/06	Gran Prix / Pacific Northwest M24 Championship	Seattle, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.cor

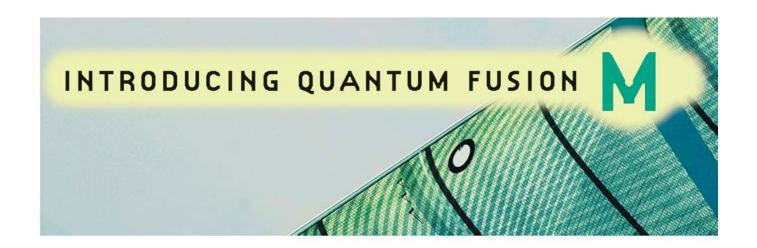
For a full listing of 2005 U.S. Melges 24 Events, visit www.usmelges24.com/events2005_events.asp

2005 Hall of Fame

Key West Race Week *Bill	Hardesty	ACURA Miami Race Week	Riccardo Simoneschi (ITA)
St. Petersburg NOOD*	Bertrand	Gulf Coast Championship*.	Travis Weisleder

*North American/World Ranking Points Events





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