

M24★USA

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association Volume 2 • Issue 3 • Summer 2005

Morgan Reeser and Neil Sullivan on *MFatic* are

2005 Carloan.com U.S. Melges 24 National Champions!



On May 1, 2005 Morgan Reeser at the helm for Neil Sullivan on *MFatic* sailed into the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association record books by achieving his third U.S. National Championship title in Annapolis, Maryland. Reeser earned his very first Melges 24 National title with Sullivan in 2000 in Charleston, South Carolina. His second title was earned in 2003 at the helm for Doug Kessler in Pensacola,

Florida. Thirty-eight Melges 24 teams challenged Reeser — thirty-three from the U.S., three from the UK and two from Canada. The event was held along with *Sailing World Magazine's* Annapolis NOOD Regatta. Supported in part by U.S. Melges 24 National Class Sponsor Carloan.com, the Championship was a huge success. *Story continues on page 5.*

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Photo Sharon Green, www.ultimatesailing.com



Team Pegasus powered by North Sails to win the 2005 Key West Race Week.

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2005 Acura Miami Race Week 1,3

2004 Worlds 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

2004 North Americans 1,3,4,5

2004 Nationals 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

2004 Key West Race Week 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10

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Thirty-nine teams traveled to Annapolis, Maryland this past April/May to participate in Carloan.com Nationals.

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USMCA Northeast District Revitalization

Simon Strauss, GBR-592 Team Gill * sstrauss@nyc.rr.com * **Fleet Captain, Fleet #6, Long Island Sound, New York Metro**

It has been a quick seven months since the USMCA held its very first fully recognized AGM in Key West, Florida at Race Week. Since then, the US Class enthusiasm has picked up momentum. That very same energy is generating the excitement and dedication of three Melges 24 owners in the Northeast: Simon Strauss (Fleet Captain, Fleet #6 New York Metro, Long Island Sound), J.C. Raby (Fleet Captain, Fleet #2 Newport, Rhode Island) and Bill Blank, USMCA Northeast District Governor. Together, along with at least another half dozen Northeast M24 Owners, Fleet Captains and M24 sailors, they have set out to rebuild their once thriving Melges 24 District. They want to grow the Fleet. Here's how they are doing it...

The U.S. Melges 24 Class Executive Committee has been very complimentary about the recent efforts of the Northeast District to put our house in order, get ourselves organized and enjoy some fantastic Melges 24 racing! All that sounds like motherhood and apple pie, doesn't it? But it has taken an incredible amount of effort and countless e-mails!

Seriously though, after coming back from the fabulous racing at the National Championship this Spring in Annapolis, we determined that our prospects for good racing in the Northeast looked dim, unless we all worked together to improve and organize.

KEY INGREDIENTS

1. Communication. Publicize and relentlessly market. Make sure you have the latest list of Melges 24 sailors in your District. This is an ongoing project. Not everyone is a member of the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association, as much as we want them to be, but we need to stay in touch with all owners and sailors; why else will they join the Class Association unless they perceive the value of doing so? We obtained the latest list from Joy Dunigan the USMCA Class Communications Director, we created our own additions from relationships made at regattas and we talked to past governors to obtain their data. Then we called or e-mailed everyone to see if their data was current and to get them interested in events in the Northeast. As new owners buy boats or as existing owners come to light, we acquaint them with the list of owners and the planned major regatta list. And we try any way we can to get them to attend as many regattas as possible! This meant finding crews and accommodations, but the results in well-attended regattas have been worth the effort.

We had a conference call for all interested sailors



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in May to arrange the schedule for 2005 and the preliminary schedule for 2006. Then we circulated notes of the call and our member list so that everyone was kept in the loop. We will also have a follow-up call in September to review the regatta attendance over the summer and to plan for next year's season.

2. Arrange. Be sure to arrange key regatta space by time and geography. We started too late for 2005, even in May for this year, as the conflict between the regattas at the end of July shows. Nevertheless, our plan for the Fall has crystalized into a schedule that makes sense for boats planning to ship to Florida for the Atlantic Coast Championships in Jacksonville and the Worlds in Key Largo. We aim to hold not more than one major regatta per month so that owners avoid burn-out and divorce; we have also tried to spread the regattas geographically so that everyone has a regatta close to home and we can try to get all the District's sailors to each of the monthly events. For 2006, we have already planned a schedule that will include the Gold Cup in August — a North American Ranking Event in beautiful Newport, Rhode Island.

3. Excitement. The boat is naturally exciting, we all know. But a big fleet at each event is more exciting to spectators, owners of other boats and will help to bring new blood into the Class. So, concentration on a smaller number of well-attended events should pay dividends. Also, fleets are aiming to organize tuning

demonstrations at some events; and one can arrange test sails for prospective owners or crew members before a regatta starts. We decided to create a Northeast District Championship, for which a perpetual Trophy has already been promised by J.C. Raby and Greg Fornal. This year the Championship will be awarded based on the results in the Larchmont NOOD; in future years it will be awarded based on aggregate results from a number of regattas so as to encourage regatta attendance.

We have asked the National Class to publicize the names of Fleet Captains on the District page on the Web site. We encourage all owners to indicate participation on the national events list (pour encourager les autres) and we will continue to make suggestions to improve national communications as we go. As other fleets come up with ways to improve the Class, please share them with all us so we can all benefit from your experience.

Simon Strauss
Fleet Captain, Fleet # 6, New York Metro, Long Island Sound

J.C. Raby
Fleet Captain, Fleet # 2, Newport, Rhode Island

Bill Blank
USMCA Northeast District Governor

Fleet No	Location	Captain	Email
17	New Jersey	Mitch Hnatt	mhnatt4@aol.com
22	Annapolis, Maryland	Bill Carleton	bcarleton@caci.com
34	Lake Champlain, New York	John Kimura	
06	New York Metro/Long Island Sound	Simon Strauss	sstrauss@nyc.rr.com
02	Newport, Rhode Island	J.C. Raby	jcrapy@cox.net

UPDATE: 2005 Corum Melges 24 World Championship

December 11-16, 2005 • Key Largo, Florida | Ocean Reef Club • www.2005corumm24worlds.com

Preparations for the **2005 Corum Melges 24 World Championship** have been underway for sometime now and the number of entries are beginning to accumulate. In an effort to help everyone plan early, so everyone can relax and have fun racing in Key Largo — we have provided some starter tips for making your experience at Ocean Reef the absolute best it can be — for you, your crew and most importantly your family.

For the last couple of years, Ocean Reef has clearly been a favorite with those who had the opportunity to sail at the Club in December. The lush green tropical surrounding and warm temperatures are quick to reassure you that attendance was a good decision. And the racing... well that we don't need to elaborate on. Everyone knows that the Melges 24 is awesome. It's fun, fast and highly competitive. The Ocean Reef Regatta is traditionally held during the month of December and in the past has been a tremendous success. Each year Ocean Reef has greeted more and more entrants. In 2002, the very first Regatta, there were 9. In 2003 the entry amounted to 15 and 2004 the participation level sky rocketed to 43!

Five months out, we are already looking at over thirty entries with many, many more verbally acknowledging intention of participation.

REGISTRATION

If it is possible for you to register early, we encourage you to do so. 1.) Registration has been made quick and super simple. You can A.) Go online today at www.2005corumm24worlds.com/register.asp. You can process your entry form and pay online. No need to worry about who will be crewing for you. All entry information can be adjusted as we draw closer to the event or B.) Download the NOR, which includes an entry form. Fill it out and mail it in to the appropriate address with your check and measurement form. You will also note that credit card applications for you and individual cards for your crew for Ocean Reef have been included. The applications need to be filled out and sent to Ocean Reef for processing prior to your arrival.

NOR (NOTICE OF RACE)

Download one today! The NOR is full of important information that you will need to be aware of prior to traveling to Ocean Reef. It includes a schedule of events, a number of items on dress code at Ocean Reef as well as the entry form.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There is an accommodation type for everyone. From



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hotel rooms, to condominiums to homes with docks and amenities, it is very important that the moment you have completed your registration, you get this squared away as soon as possible if not before. Reservations can be made directly through Ocean Reef Club, toll free at 1-800-741-7333.

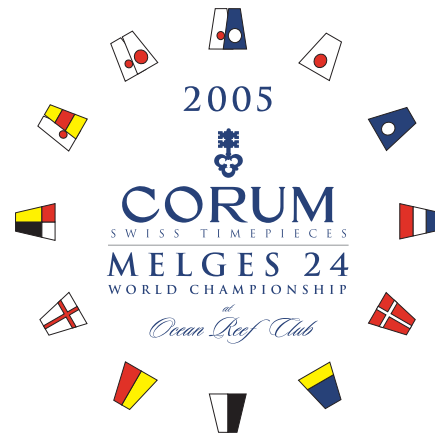
ENTRY DEADLINE

Even though we are sure that all those planning to attend will be entered well in advance, please be aware that the entry deadline is November 8, 2005. There will be absolutely NO exceptions past this date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At anytime, prior to or before your registration/arrival in Ocean Reef, please feel free to contact Karen Gottwald, 2005 Worlds Event Organizer. She can be reached on e-mail at kgottwald@csginvestments.com or contact Joy Dunigan, 2005 Worlds Press Committee Chair at communications@usmelges24.com.

Stay tuned to the official Corum Worlds Web site at www.2005corumm24worlds.com. Information will be available via this site as well as the International Melges 24 Class site at www.melges24.com and the USMCA at www.usmelges24.com.



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(Continued from the Cover)

NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVENT

For three days, the Melges 24 fleet was the focus of everyone's attention including that of the *Baltimore Sun*. The Melges 24 teams were pleasantly awakened on day two of the event by being featured on the front cover of this nationally recognized newspaper. Spectators ventured out to the race course and sat on the side lines as they watched a seven race series that included a variety of wind and weather conditions. From cold windy breezes to rainy down pours, every team worked hard to climb their way up the leader board. Reeser on the other hand made racing the Melges 24 look all too easy. From the very start, he got out front and stayed out front. Never once did he relinquish his overall top spot position. Quite an accomplishment when one begins to review the entry list. On board with Reeser and Sullivan was Karl Anderson and Max Skelley. With a consistent string of top three finishes their worst finish was sixth. Reeser and his team seemed at ease with the competition and extremely focused. They needed to be. The talent and experience in the fleet, on more than one occasion, was best described as deep and impressive. His toughest competitors were 1999 U.S. National Champion Brian Porter, defending 2004 Annapolis NOOD Champion John Pollard, Shawn Burke, Jeff Ecklund and 2005 St. Petersburg NOOD Champion John Bertrand.

Friday and Saturday of the championship seemed to be the most grueling — both under cold, cloudy and rainy conditions. Sunday proved to be most exciting with two races scheduled. Reeser sailed onto the course in confidence, however thirty-eight of his dearest friends knew what they needed to do in order to come close to

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him and his apparent stranglehold on the top position. Despite the very shifty conditions, the sun was out and the wind was up — optimum Melges 24 racing! Perfect planing conditions! It was down to the wire for the first race. On the last downwind stretch, Reeser needed to change out the spinnaker just after coming around the offset. He and his team showed their perseverance. They came around the offset in second, and got to work immediately on hoisting the new spinnaker into place. Pollard and a few others sailed right by. With a new kite powered up, Reeser still managed to show great boat speed downwind still managing to come in second. On the final race of the regatta, the wind was shiftier than ever before. On the start, some teams got lucky, others did not. Bertrand, in really good position for a top five



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2005 Carloan.com Melges 24 U.S. National Championship

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finish saw the opportunity vanish as the wind diminished, leaving him and several other competitors on his transom well behind the fleet. Reeser, Porter and Pollard appeared to be on cruise control. They carefully monitored each others progress, both displaying great speed and smooth boat handling. This was key to winning the championship.

Reeser easily sailed across the finish line as he added a third Melges 24 National title to his collection. Pollard was not far behind taking second, while Porter was third. Geoffrey Pierini was fourth and Ecklund finished fifth.

An event preview, all three daily reports, results and photography by Jack Hardway can be found online at www.usmelges24.com.



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2006

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

||| MAY 19-21 ||| SANTA CRUZ YACHT CLUB ||| SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA



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2007 MELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

||| MAY 01-10 ||| SANTA CRUZ YACHT CLUB ||| SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

2005 BMW Ocean 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 in a few short weeks. Racing will take place from Monday, September 19 to Friday, September 23 with registration commencing on September 16, 2005.

Currently there are 29 posted entries with many more slated to sign-up before the August 20th late entry deadline. Heads-up USA teams! Many of the incredibly talented teams that will be racing in Torquay potentially will be on hand in Key Largo such as John Pollard (UK), Joe Woods (UK) and Kenneth Thelen (FIN). Several French teams including Arnaud Remy — and let's not forget the very strong Italian teams including Gabrio Zandona at the helm for Giovanni Maspéro on board for Joe Fly!

The **Royal Torbay Yacht Club** hosted the very first ever Melges 24 World Championship in 1998, and the class is delighted to be returning to this outstanding venue. Torquay is located in South West England and regularly hosts large championships. Their expertise and facilities are second-to-none.

Plan to attend 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 e-mail for charter information as well as other regatta details adrian@ukkaraoke.co.uk. Check out the official event Web site at www.m24europeans05.com.



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Melges 24 Fleet Action (artist sketch)

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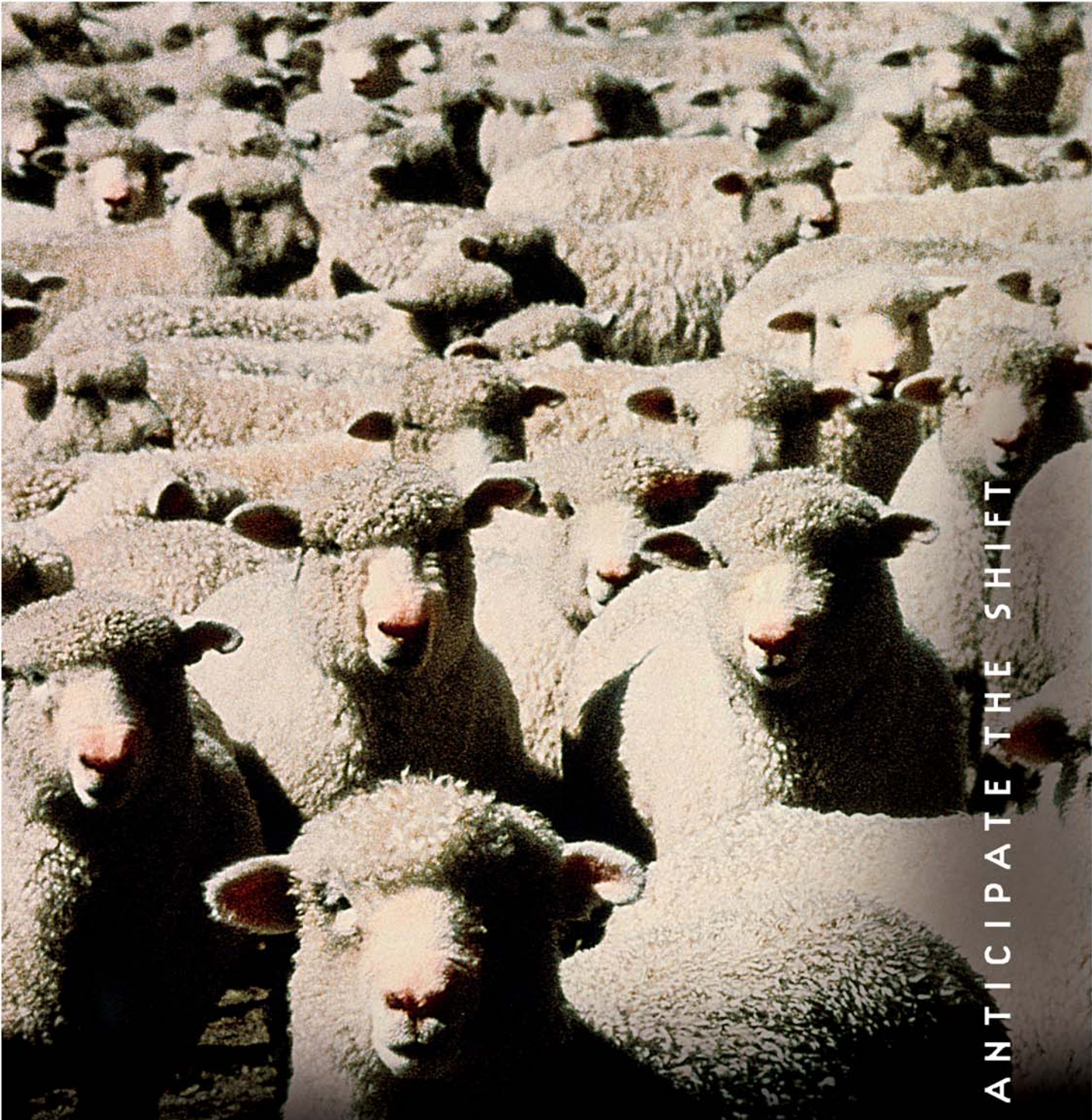
2005 U.S. Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	EPL	CONTACT
NORTH AMERICAN RANKING POINTS EVENTS				
09/24 - 09/25	Pacific Coast Championship	San Francisco, CA	5	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
10/07 - 10/09	Melges 24 Gold Cup Regatta	Lake Geneva, WI	15	Andy Burdick • AlB45@aol.com
11/18 - 11/20	Atlantic Coast Championship / King's Day Regatta	Jacksonville, FL	22	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
12/11 - 12/16	Corum Melges 24 World Championship	Key Largo, FL	28	www.melges24.com/2005worlds
REGATTAS				
08/05 - 08/07	Lake Dillon Open	Lake Dillon, CO	0	Michael Sher • michaelsher@mac.com
08/06 - 08/07	Gorge One Design	Cascade Locks, OR	1	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
08/13 - 08/14	Summer Keel Boat Regatta	San Francisco, CA	3	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
08/20 - 08/21	Melges 24 Charleston Harbor Challenge	Charleston, SC	9	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
08/27 - 08/28	Grand Traverse Yacht Club Invitational	Traverse City, MI	12	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.com
08/27 - 08/28	One Design Event	Santa Cruz, CA	1	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
09/03 - 09/04	Pitch Regatta	Bellingham, WA	0	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
09/03 - 09/04	Labor Day Regatta	San Francisco, CA	1	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
09/03 - 09/04	Red Fox Regatta	Charlevoix, MI	8	Marty Jensen • searaymarty@yahoo.com
09/10 - 09/11	Larchmont NOOD/Northeast District Championship	Larchmont, NY	7	Simon Strauss • sstraus@nyc.rr.com
09/17 - 09/18	Star and Bar Regatta	Seattle, WA	0	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
09/23 - 09/24	Glaveston Bay/Texas NOOD	Seabrook, TX	1	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/09 - 10/10	Fall One Design Regatta	San Francisco, CA	2	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
10/15 - 10/16	West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit (WFORC)	Pensacola, FL	2	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
10/15 - 10/16	PSSC Regatta	Seattle, WA	0	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
10/15 - 10/16	Old Man Of The Sea Regatta	Fort Worth, TX	0	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/22 - 10/23	Fall Flail	Annapolis, MD	5	Bill Carleton • bcarleton@caci.com
10/29 - 10/30	Melbourne Race Week	Melbourne, FL	9	Michael Nulf • mnulf@cfl.rr.com
11/04 - 11/06	Gran Prix / Pacific Northwest M24 Championship	Seattle, WA	0	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
2006 EVENTS				
01/16 - 01/20	Key West Race Week	Key West, FL	-	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
02/17 - 02/19	St. Petersburg NOOD	St. Petersburg, FL	-	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
03/01 - 03/12	Acura Miami Race Week	Miami, FL	-	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
05/19 - 05/21	2006 North American Championship	Santa Cruz, CA	-	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
08/23 - 09/01	2006 Melges 24 World Championship	Hyres, France	-	Denis Infante • d.infante@melges24.fr
2007 EVENTS				
05/01 - 05/10	Melges 24 World Championship	Santa Cruz, CA	-	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com

For a full listing of 2005 U.S. Melges 24 events, visit www.usmelges24.com/events/2005_events.asp. International events can be found at www.melges24.com. EPL (Event Participation List) as detailed on www.usmelges24.com/events/2005_events.asp. This is the number of boats currently with intention to race. Sign-up today at <http://www.usmelges24.com/events/EPLSignUp.asp>

2005 Hall of Fame

Key West Race Week	Bill Hardesty	U.S. Nationals	Morgan Reeser
St. Petersburg NOOD	John Bertrand	Detroit NOOD	Chuck Holzman
ACURA Miami Race Week	Riccardo Simoneschi (ITA)	Ullman Sails Race Week	Dave Ullman
Gulf Coast Championship	Travis Weisleder	Whidbey Island Race Week	Herb Cole



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