

# M24★USA

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association

Volume 3 ★ Issue 2 ★ Spring/Summer 2006

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# Dominant Species



Brian Porter's Full Throttle, 2006 North American Champions using the new KM-08 main and J7-K jib. Boats powered by North finished 1,3\*,4\*,5,6,7,9,11,12,13\*,14,15.

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# Contents : M24★USA

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association Volume 3 ★ Issue 2 ★ Spring/Summer 2006 ★ [www.usmelges24.com](http://www.usmelges24.com)



**ON THE COVER: 2006 National Championship ★ Jacksonville, FL ★ November 16-18**

**2007 World Championship ..... 6**

May 3-12 ★ Santa Cruz Yacht Club ★ Santa Cruz, California

**Brian Porter Wins The 2006 North American Championship ..... 7**

The 2006 NAC was a great warm-up to the 2007 World Championship slated for Santa Cruz, California at the Santa Cruz Yacht Club. Racing conditions could not have been more unpredictable. Originally a four day event, only two days of intense racing was the result as competitors found themselves waiting for wind.

**PREVIEW: 2006 U.S. National Championship ..... 8**

November 16-18 ★ Florida Yacht Club ★ Jacksonville, Florida

**FEATURE STORY: Fleet Building In The U.S.A. .... 10**

Fleet building is challenging simply because the U.S. territory is like no other. It is vast and expansive, yet full of possibilities and potential. Check out the full listing of ideas and fleet profiles.

**2006 U.S. Events Schedule ..... 14**

**2006 Hall of Fame..... 14**

**CREDITS & CONTRIBUTORS:** Concept/Design/Editorial: JOY Advertising ([www.joysavannah.com](http://www.joysavannah.com)) **On The Cover:** 2006 Melges 24 National Championship Fleet Action **Photography:** Joy Advertising, Tim Wilkes Photography **Contributing Writers:** Joy Dunigan **Advertising and Sponsorship Inquiries:** Contact JOY Advertising for a media kit at (912) 920-1826 or via email at [joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com](mailto:joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com)

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2005 World Champions Luna Rossa

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## ULLMAN 2005/06 VICTORY LIST

2005 World Champs: 1st, 3rd, 4th  
2006 Key West Race Week: 1st, 2nd, 5th  
2005 Nationals Champs: 1st  
2005 Long Beach Race Week: 1st  
2005 Atlantic Coast Champs: 1st, 2nd



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# 2007

MELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ★ 3-12 MAY

3 MAY	REGISTRATION
4 MAY	REGISTRATION
5 MAY	REGISTRATION PRE WORLDS DAY 01
6 MAY	REGISTRATION PRE WORLDS DAY 02
7 MAY	REGISTRATION
8 MAY	2 RACES
9 MAY	2 RACES
10 MAY	2 RACES
11 MAY	2 RACES
12 MAY	2 RACES

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# SANTA CRUZ'IN ★ CALIFORNIA

## Brian Porter aboard *Full Throttle* Wins the 2006 North American Championship

With only two days of racing completed, Brian Porter and his *Full Throttle* crew of Harry Melges, III, his brother John Porter and Dave Navin claimed victory after numerous attempts at this major international Melges 24 title. "I love sailing in Santa Cruz," said Porter.

The racing was tight, really tight. 2006 Key West Race Week Champion Dave Ullman on *Pegasus 505* trailed Porter by only one point after Friday's racing, and one can only speculate that the strength and agility displayed by Ullman's team they just might have caught Porter — had they had the chance. Ullman took the second place trophy with great stride, "Those guys did a great job and really deserve to win. When your worst finish is a fourth, you deserve to win." Finishing up in third was local San Francisco favorite Seadon Wijzen on board, *Pareto Optimal*.

In fourth place overall, it was the sensational corinthian team of owner Bruce Ayres on *Monsoon*. Bruce's team is very special. They really have perfected their craft and are considered one of the best team's on the USMCA scene. Best of all — they are Corinthians! They are a shining example of what a consistent crew, with time in the boat can do. "We could use more time in the boat," a very modest Ayres said. But from the looks of the final results, Ayres and his team did extremely well. Philippe Kahn on *Pegasus 575*, the second of three Pegasus Racing teams finished in fifth.



Melges24 Fleet newcomer Stephen Pugh on USA-595 *Taboo* prepare at the 2006 NAC

1. *FULL THROTTLE*, Brian Porter
2. *PEGASUS 505*, Dave Ullman
3. *PERETO OPTIMAL*, Seadon Wijzen
4. *MONSOON*, Bruce Ayres (Corinthian)
5. *PEGASUS 575*, Philippe Kahn
6. *GO DOGS GO*, Tim Hawkins/Pepe Parsons
7. *TABOO*, Stephen Pugh/Phillips Perkins
8. *ROCK N' ROLL*, Argyle Campbell
9. *COURAGE X*, Eddy Eich/Alba Batzill (Corinthian)
10. *USA-49*, SHAWN BENNETT



2006 Melges24 North American Corinthian Champions, Bruce Ayres, Jon Pinckney, Don Smith and Dave Sheldon

# 2006

## U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 16 - 18 NOVEMBER

### ★ TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER ★

REGISTRATION, RIGGING, WEIGH-IN,  
MEASUREMENT AND PRACTICE RACING

### ★ WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER ★

REGISTRATION, RIGGING, WEIGH-IN,  
MEASUREMENT AND PRACTICE RACING  
AND WELCOME SOCIAL

### ★ THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER ★

MORNING BREAKFAST, SKIPPER'S MEETING,  
THREE RACES AND EVENING SOCIAL

### ★ FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER ★

THREE RACES AND EVENING SOCIAL

### ★ SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER ★

THREE RACES, FORMAL DINNER,  
AWARDS BANQUET AND LIVE MUSIC

### ★ SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER ★

HAUL OUT

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From Left to Right: #37 Bill Carleton, USA-378 *Tiburon*; #90 Jim Golden, USA-606 *Chillout*; #75 Gary Schneidman USA-37; #95 Gary Schwarting, USA-622 *Obsession*

TIM WILKES PHOTOGRAPHY / TIMWILKES.COM



### BUILDING FLEETS, SUSTAINING MOMENTUM

Fleet building is a challenge, no matter how you look at it, but the USMCA possesses a weapon in the great battle of constant class growth – the Melges 24 – a one-of-a-kind racing yacht that anyone can own, anyone can sail and almost immediately feel the thrill of a downwind run.

Over the past few years the fleet has witnessed substantial growth in almost every region of the country. The numbers say it all. At Key West Race Week, the Melges 24 is still the largest fleet in attendance with an average of 55+. Since 2005, the St. Petersburg NOOD has delivered more than 35 or more competing teams. Other major events around the country are in the 20-30 boat range. Not many classes of boats can taut such success. At intercontinental events, the numbers start at 30 and go up, and at World Championship events the numbers can easily exceed 75-80. Strong, productive fleet building and persistent, targeted marketing is the catalyst and these numbers are the result.

No matter how great, there is always room for improvement and more competitors on the line. It really comes down to that one word — MORE. We, as a class always feel the need to do more. To generate more participation, continue to encourage owners, which ultimately means more fun, more speed and usually results in more events too.

The U.S. Melges 24 Class constantly yearns to grow and has effectively learned how to evolve and transform itself from region-to-region, adapting from coast-to-coast. Many ideas on M24 fleet building have been exchanged during the last two racing seasons, but all can agree communication is the greatest asset. Have a look at these concepts and try them out — see what works best for you and your fleet!



#### ★ YAHOO GROUPS

A couple of districts and some smaller fleets such as the San Francisco M24 Fleet, have Yahoo Groups set-up and offer a more direct approach to fleet building within their area. Many topics can be shared through this unique

tool — from beer can races, to planning a full regional racing schedule, to votes and poles on regatta attendance, etc. Don't be afraid to chat it up! Both the West Coast fleet and the Gulf Coast region, really keep the wires hot!

#### ★ LOCAL, MONTHLY REGATTAS

A monthly, Melges 24 local regatta is very beneficial for a number of reasons. First and foremost, ask the top sailors — time in the boat makes for good, solid, consistent boat handling and can definitely help figure out how many speed gears you have depending on the conditions. Taking the boat and crew out once a month improves your overall game, so when that big event comes around you are prepared to do well. Other unique circumstances that may extend from this is the opportunity to give your local fleet more visibility — this is definitely true in places like Charleston, South Carolina and Annapolis, Maryland. It is amazing how many people will inquire about the boat, class, fleet, etc. and prompt perhaps a test drive.

#### ★ FLEET CAMPAIGNING

In 2005 and 2006, the Northeast district grew 600% in one weekend! Melges 24 owners, J.C. Raby, Fleet Captain for Newport, Rhode Island; Simon Strauss, Fleet Captain for New York/Long Island Sound and several others simply campaigned the yacht clubs to encourage more one design starts. They created their own regional contact lists and started calling. Each respectively picked up the phone. They inquired about Melges 24s docked and stored that seemed to be without an owner, worked to identify the owners and approached them about getting the boat out on the water. It was amazing how many of them were sitting not being used. This proactive fleet building approach worked well.

#### ★ YOUTH SAILING OPPORTUNITIES AND THE MELGES 24

One should never say that the reason they can't make the event is because they can't find crew when there are junior sailors who would give their right arm to sail a Melges 24. Extend these opportunities as this is the future of the fleet. Getting them started early keeps them going for years to come. With 2005 Melges 24 World Champion crew Mac Agnese (12) as a shining example of the ultimate junior sailor, the Melges 24 is at the top of the list!

#### ★ USMELGES24.COM & MELGES24.COM

Race reports, speed stories and all kinds of other really cool info is encouraged for submission. Previews, dailies and wrap-ups are great and all are welcome. These can be included within the International E-News, the USMCA E-News as well as posted to the web.



## FEATURE STORY : Fleet Building In The U.S.A.



### MIDWEST

#### ★ DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Mike Dow - USA 613 *Flying Toaster*  
526 W. 14th Street, Box #146  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Email: mdow@chartermi.net

#### ★ KEY EVENTS

10/7 - 10/8 Lake Geneva Fall Championship, WI

#### ★ LOCAL REGATTAS

8/26 - 8/27 Grand Traverse Yacht Club Invitational, MI  
9/2 - 9/3 Red Fox Regatta, MI

The Midwest is the largest of all the districts and just so happens to be home to the Melges 24 with Fleet No. 1 residing in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Other fleets flourish within the Chicago area, but none more impressive than the state of Michigan. From Muskegon to Detroit, this hard core group of M24 diehards campaign actively to Key West in January to escape the cold, snowy conditions. In the springtime, beginning around early May through the summer months and into August a Midwest extravaganza of regattas are on tap, with big turnouts and great parties in tow.



### SOUTHEAST

#### ★ DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Ryan Hamm - USA 419 *When Pigs Fly*  
22-A Windermere Boulevard  
Charleston, SC 29407  
Email: ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com

#### ★ KEY EVENTS

11/16 - 11/18 Melges 24 US National Championship, Jacksonville, Florida

#### ★ LOCAL REGATTAS

10/14 - 10/15 West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit, Pensacola, Florida  
10/28 - 10/29 Melbourne Fall Regatta, Melbourne, Florida

The Southeast is only second in number to the Midwest as it winds down each season and kicks off the following racing year. It all starts in Key West with Key West Race Week where the racing is fantastic and what a wonderful winter getaway. It is also great fun for the family as the Florida sunshine rarely disappoints, the shopping and dining is quite nice too. The Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville during the cold month of November closes out the year in style with the King's Day Regatta/Atlantic Coast Championship. 2007 is set to be great as a resurging Florida fleet sets up for more events throughout the year.



### WESTCOAST

#### ★ DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Don Jesberg - USA 555 *Ego*  
215 Molino Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
Email: jesberg@msn.com

#### ★ KEY EVENTS

10/7 - 10/8 Fall One Design, CA  
11/4 - 11/5 Melges San Francisco Challenge, CA

#### ★ LOCAL REGATTAS

9/2 - 9/3 Labor Day Regatta, CA  
9/9 - 9/10 Monterey Peninsula YC event, CA

There is no doubt that the West Coast fleet is growing also. The numbers in 2006 reflect that this district is almost as large as the Midwest and the Southeast. A very active San Francisco fleet keeps them alive as well as numerous other pods of M24s from Long Beach to Newport Beach; from San Diego to Lake Tahoe; and as far east as Nevada. For 2007 the World Championship will be held in Santa Cruz and what an event it will be. Outside of the Worlds, their premiere event is the Pacific Coast Championship which boasts a fantastic level of participation each year.



### NORTHEAST

#### ★ DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Bill Blank - USA 568 *Brilliant*  
20277 Cockerill Road  
Purcellville, VA 20132  
Email: bblank@tsm1.com

#### ★ KEY EVENTS

9/9 - 9/10 Larchmont NOOD/Northeast District Championship, NY

#### ★ LOCAL REGATTAS

9/2 - 9/4 Annapolis Race Week  
9/23 - 9/23 Hospice Cup, MD  
10/14 - 10/15 Melges 24 Fall Flail / Chesapeake Cup, MD

With leaps and bounds the Melges 24 fleet in the Northeast has grown and more attention is gained by this great racer, event-after-event. With the success of such events as the Gold Cup Regatta in Newport, the Annapolis NOOD and Fall Flail events in Annapolis, Maryland the M24 holds its own. Proactive owners that encourage big regatta participation (locally as well as Wednesday night races), demand that some put the boat on the trailer as often as possible, and travel at least a couple times a year to other districts for events makes them by far the most progressive of all the districts in the country.



## FEATURE STORY : Fleet Building In The U.S.A.



### GULFCOAST

#### ★ DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Matt Mayo - USA 36 *Trick Monkey*  
9014 Oakpath Lane  
Dallas, TX 75243  
Email: mamayo@flash.net

#### ★ KEY EVENTS

9/22 - 9/24 Galveston/Texas NOOD, Seabrook

#### ★ LOCAL REGATTAS

10/13 - 10/15 Leukemia Cup

The Gulf Coast region offers dedicated Melges 24 racing at great distances. From Austin, Texas to Lake Dillon in Colorado to Jackson, Mississippi events are held consistently. This region realizes its growth challenges, yet takes each event in positive stride with a handful of boats and a truckload of potential. Current District Governor Matt Mayo along with a several others, campaign the Melges 24 where ever they go. Despite the destruction and devastation of Hurricane Katrina they have bounced back in true form with a total line-up for 2007.



### NORTHWEST

#### ★ DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Paul Bennett - USA 66 *Goose n' Duck*  
4322 SW Frontenac Street  
Seattle, WA 98136  
Email: paul\_bennett@k2sports.com

#### ★ KEY EVENTS

11/3 - 11/4 2006 M24 Grand Prix Championship

#### ★ LOCAL REGATTAS

10/15 - 10/16 Puget Sound Sailing Championship

In the last two years, the Northwest district has resurfaced with a fleet of racers that just love their Melges 24s, encourage travel to other districts as well as feature a spectacular line-up of events that are primarily during the summer months. In particular, Whidbey Island Race Week — a week-long event that produces great racing conditions and terrific daily parties. It's basically Key West Race Week gone pacific northwest as a decent size fleet always turns out for this event. Growth is inevitable in this area as the primary fleet resides in Seattle yet stretches as far east as Idaho.

# 2006 U.S. Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<b>NORTH AMERICAN RANKING</b>			
07/21 - 07/23	Whidbey Island Race Week	Seattle, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
08/18 - 08/20	U.S. Gold Cup	Newport, RI	J.C. Raby • jcr@bostonmeridian.com
08/23 - 09/01	Melges 24 World Championship	Hyerres, France	Denis Infante • d.infante@melges24.fr
10/07 - 10/08	Lake Geneva Fall Championship Regatta	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • andy@melges.com
11/16 - 11/18	U.S. National Championship/ACC	Jacksonville, FL	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
<b>REGATTAS</b>			
07/08 - 07/09	Sail Newport	Newport, RI	J.C. Raby • jcr@bostonmeridian.com
07/15 - 07/16	Pacific Coast Championship	ahoe City, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
07/16 - 07/18	Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge	Solomons, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburong@gmail.com
07/22 - 07/23	Albert Simpson Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
07/27 - 07/30	Marblehead NOOD	Marblehead, MA	Jonathan Samel • john@samel-ins.com
08/05 - 08/06	Melges 24 Gorge 1 Design Regatta	Tahoe City, CA	Matt MacGregor • matt@lakeview-morgage.com
08/12 - 08/13	Summer Keel	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
08/19 - 08/20	Corpus Christy	Corpus Christy, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
08/19 - 08/20	One Design Regatta	Santa Cruz, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
08/26 - 08/27	Grand Traverse Yacht Club Invitational	Traverse City, MI	Bob Clark • rcbobclark@chartermi.net
09/02 - 09/03	Labor Day Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
09/02 - 09/03	Red Fox Regatta	Charlevoix, MI	Marty Jensen • searaymarty@yahoo.com
09/02 - 09/04	Annapolis Race Week	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburong@gmail.com
09/09 - 09/10	Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club Regatta	Monterey, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
09/09 - 09/10	Larchmont NOOD   Northeast District Championship	Larchmont, NY	Simon Strauss • sstrauss@nyc.rr.com
09/22 - 09/24	Galveston/Texas NOOD	Seabrook, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
09/23 - 09/23	Hospice Cup	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburong@gmail.com
10/07 - 10/08	Fall One Design Regatta	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
10/13 - 10/15	Leukemia Cup	Corpus Christy, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/14 - 10/15	Melges 24 Fall Flail   Chesapeake Cup	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburong@gmail.com
10/14 - 10/15	WFORC (West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit)	Pensacola, FL	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
10/15 - 10/16	Puget Sound Sailing Championship	-	Matt MacGregor • matt@lakeview-morgage.com
10/28 - 10/29	Melbourne Fall Regatta	Melbourne, FL	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
11/03 - 11/04	Melges 24 Grand Prix Championship	-	Matt MacGregor • matt@lakeview-morgage.com
11/04 - 11/05	San Francisco Challenge	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com

For a full listing of 2006-2007 U.S. Melges 24 events, visit [www.usmelges24.com/events/2006\\_events.asp](http://www.usmelges24.com/events/2006_events.asp). International events can be found at [www.melges24.com](http://www.melges24.com).

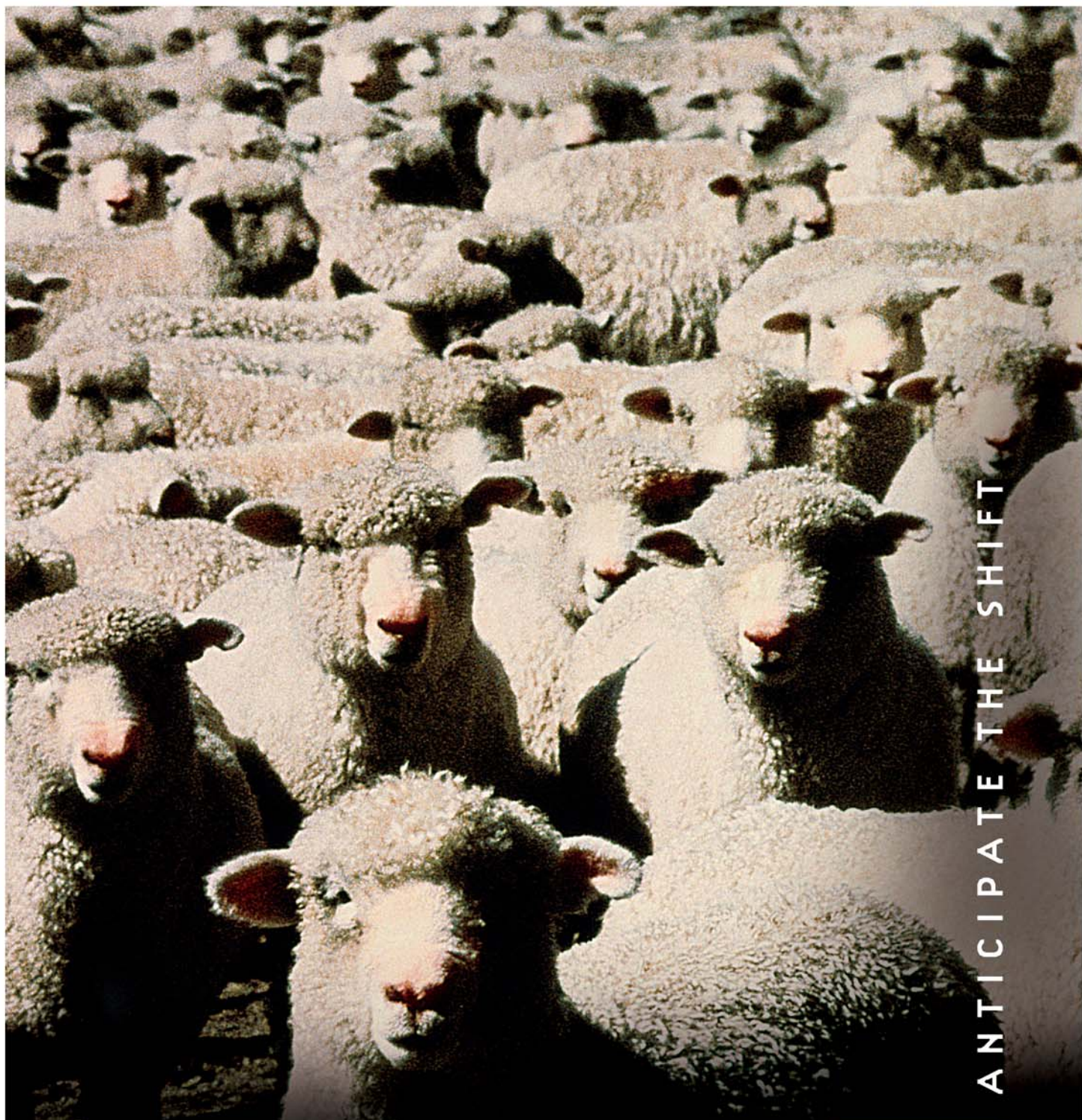
# 2006 Hall of Fame

Key West Race Week*	Dave Ullman
St. Petersburg NOOD*	Eric Nerlinger
ACURA Miami Race Week	Riccardo Simoneschi (ITA)
Lakefest Regatta*	Scott Holmgren
North American Championship*	Brian Porter

Muskegon Regatta	Chuck Holzman
Detroit NOOD*	Marc Hollerbach
Ullman Sails Race Week*	Dave Ullman

\*North American/World Ranking Points Events





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