

















Impressive. Between ACURA Key West and the Sperry Top-Sider St. Petersburg NOOD Regatta, the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association delivered awesome racing, camaraderie and cool competitive fun to more than 90 Melges 24 teams making 2008 one of the most successful winter season's on record.



















Contents: M24*USA

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FEATURES & EXCLUSIVES

CHESAPEAKE RISING

The North American Championship will make the 2008 fall racing season hotter than ever in historic Annapolis, Maryland, ultimately setting the stage for the 2009 Worlds, hosted by the Eastport Yacht Club, *by Sam Rogers*

2009 MELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

October 27 - November 7 ★ Annapolis, Maryland ★ www.m24annapolis.com

INTERVIEW: KRISTEN LANE, USA-539 BRICK HOUSE

Despite the growing number of ladies populating the U.S. as well as the International Melges 24 fleet, there are very few that dare to drive their own. Melges Performance Sailboats' Andy Burdick conducted an interview with this truly inspiring helmswoman.

HISTORY MEETS SPEED

When thinking about the 'Holy Grail' of sailing venues in the world, Newport, R.I. easily makes the top of the list for its deep maritime history and epic sailing conditions, not to mention it's amazing attraction to the Melges 24 Class, *by Sam Rogers*

2008 SPRING CLASS NOTES

Catch-up on some of the latest class developments and announcements.

INTERVIEW: ALEX SHAFER, USA-677 SWEATY BETTY

There's Betty Boop, Betty Davis and then, there's *Sweaty Betty*. The one and only, sleek and sultry Melges 24 on the U.S. Melges 24 scene, and now she's taking on the Worlds in Sardinia. Check out this very cool interview with her driver — Alex Shafer from Clermont, Florida.

IN EVERY ISSUE

2008-2009 NORTH AMERICA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2008 HALL OF FAME CLASS CONTACT INFORMATION

CREDITS AND CONTRIBUTORS: Concept/Design/Editorial: JOY On The Cover: George Haynie from Tampa, Florida puts it on wax at the 2008 Sperry Top-Sider St. Petersburg NOOD Photography: Joy Dunigan, Rick Greyson, Paul Todd c/o Outside Images Contributing Writers: Andy Burdick, Joy Dunigan, Sam Rogers Advertising and Sponsorship Inquiries: Contact JOY for a Media Kit at (912) 756-6706 or via email at joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com



When a World Championship arrives in the United States, there is often a sense of urgency and level of intensity that permeates any Melges 24 team looking to take their shot at the title. As these competitors become more intense, a certain aura begins to hang over the regattas leading up to a Worlds; teams prepare harder, starting lines are pushed, mark roundings are tighter, everything begins to count more.

As the 2009 World Championship in Annapolis looms in the distance, teams are starting to make preparations. The 2008 North American Championships will be the perfect launching pad for a Worlds campaign as both of these regattas will be held out of the Eastport Yacht Club, with the exact same venue and race committee, and at the exact same time of year. It is not often that teams can begin to make exacting preparations for a World's through a North American Championship a year in advance.

Combined with the high level of competition associated with a North Americans and Worlds is the lure of a historic sailing destination like Annapolis. Steeped in maritime history on and off the water, the city of Annapolis is no stranger to hosting major regattas. "Sailing events in Annapolis are too numerous to list, and can be found here just about every week of the year in

boats ranging from dinghy's to maxi's," comments Bill Carleton, USMCA Northeast District Governor and Co-Chair for the upcoming '08 NAC and '09 Worlds. "Coupled with great off-water parties and gatherings, It is a great town with a strong sailing heritage and festive social atmosphere. Annapolis boasts numerous shops, bars and restaurants well known within the sailing community."

In addition to competing in a great sailing, family-friendly town like Annapolis, competitors will be assured they have the best sailing conditions and a world-class race committee. "Eastport has a terrific team in place that







is taking a business-like approach to the conduct and organization of these regattas. Doing so will ensure that plans are not only defined and detailed, yet executed with the best intentions of the Melges 24 competitors, US and International Class associations and our event sponsors," states Carleton. The 2008 North Americans will also be a great opportunity for world-class race committee personnel to fine-tune their skills. "Our race committee is led by Principal Race Officer (PRO) Jeff Borland, who is certified by US Sailing as a National Race Officer. He has been the PRO for numerous large events. Our chief judge, Charlotte Greppe, is an

- A Tough competition from sailors like Tom Single on 'Juggling Act' and big fleet racing makes for very exciting mark roundings, a feature attraction of Melges 24 fleet.
- **B** 2007 Melges 24 Corinthian World Champion Othmar Mueller Von Blumencron on 'Gannet' calls the Annapolis area home, and considered to be one of the 'ones to beat.'
- C Nothing beats a great day of Melges 24 racing. Owner and crew of 'Bulls Eye', Shawn Grisham can't help but smile about his progressive Corinthian team.
- D A force to be reckoned with Steve Kopf on 'Blur' from Charleston, South Carolina was named 2007 Southeast Ranking Champion. They are definitely a team to watch in 2008.

International Judge and International Umpire from Sweden with a great supporting team of judges representing Canada, Bermuda and the USA."

Any Melges 24 sailor questioning the social aspects of Annapolis and EYC can rest assured there won't be a lack of off-the-water activities. "On the social side of things, EYC proved its mettle by throwing one of the largest ever regatta parties, not once but 3 times, for the Volvo Ocean Race each time they made port in Annapolis. This event hosted over 6,000 sailors at each hosting, and no one went home thirsty!"

The 2008 NA's will not only be a first class event, but it is also short trip up

2008 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

26 October - 02 November Eastport Yacht Club; Annapolis, MD

2009 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

27 October - 07 November Eastport Yacht Club; Annapolis, MD

OFFICIAL EVENT WEB SITE

www.annapolismelges24.com

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Terrific sponsorship opportunities for the 2008 North American Championship as well as the 2009 Worlds are still available. If you are interested there are many ways to contribute. All sponsorship inquiries should be directed to:

Laura Muma

E-mail: lmuma@sbcglobal.net Voice: +1 773.960.3960

REQUIRED FOR COMPETITION

MEMBERSHIP

All owners and drivers must have valid 2008 class membership with their respective Member National Authorities (MNA) in order to compete.

MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES

All Melges 24s competing must have a fully validated measurement certificate signed and stamped by the class. Measurement Certificate questions? Contact USMCA Technical Chair, Bill Blank on email at tech@usmelges24.com

the east coast and only a month later than the 2008 Nationals in Charleston for Melges 24 sailors looking for their next racing fix. Teams planning to compete at the North Americans and Worlds are encouraged to book accommodations early as the great city of Annapolis is also a popular tourist destination.







27 October - 7 November

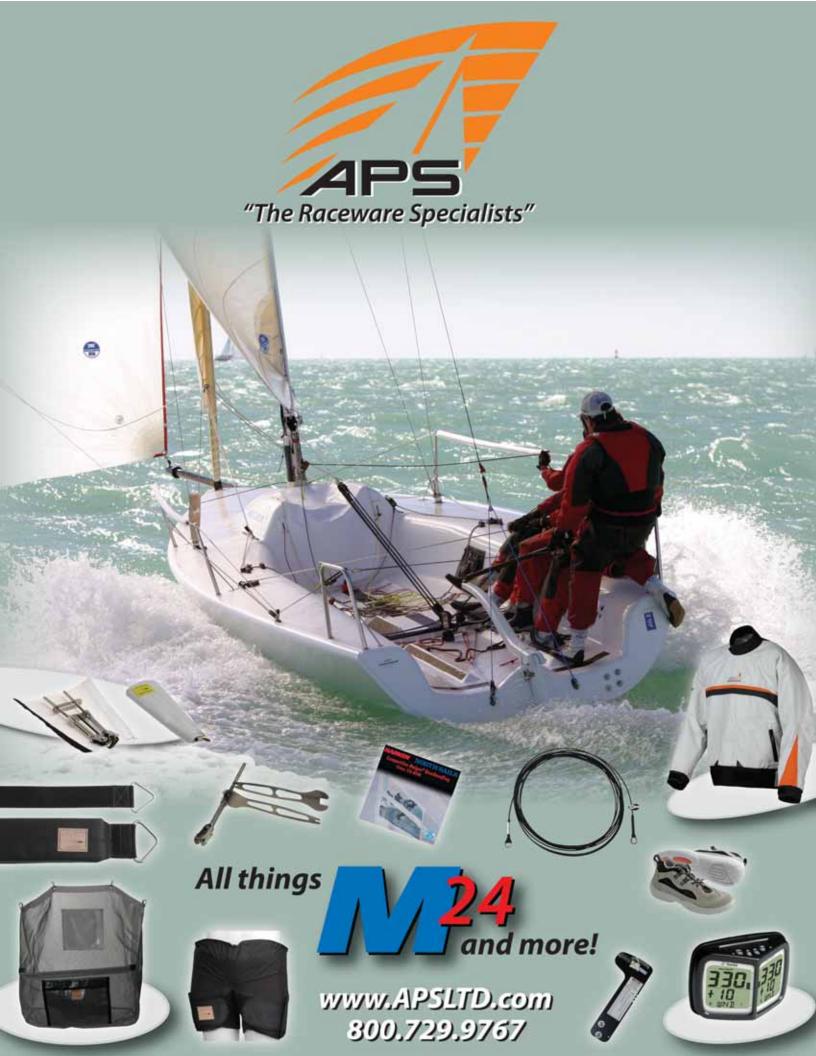
Eastport Yacht Club

Annapolis, Maryland USA

www.annapolismelges24.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

27 OCT - 1 NOV	Boat Measurement, Sail Measurement, Weigh-In, Registration
30 OCT - 31 OCT	Pre Worlds Regatta
1 NOV	Opening Ceremonies
2 NOV - 6 NOV	World Championship Racing
7 NOV - 8 NOV	Haul Out



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She's Mighty, Mighty... Kristen Lane

by Andy Burdick



We see your commitment to the sport and your enthusiasm when you race your Melges 24 and it intrigues many. How did you get involved with sailing?

My husband introduced me to sailing on our first date. I began crewing for him in races and was immediately hooked. I crewed for about 6 years. Three years ago we bought *Brick House 539*, our first Melges 24 and have been addicted ever since. About a year ago, we purchased our second boat *Brick House 623* and became a two-boat program.

The Melges 24 is unique because it's simple to tow, rig and launch. Does this

play a factor in your travels, or is it simply that you want to attend all of the big regattas and improve in your sailing?

Well, it's both. The boat's easy set up is key for us. It makes the idea of traveling cross-country seam doable. Once you get there, setting the boats up to go racing is pretty simple and we are able to get right to racing. But the level of competition at Melges 24 events is what really keeps us coming back for more. On any weekend we can be racing against Olympic and/or world champions. It's really thrilling. This year we decided to try out the 2008 Ranking Circuit and we are having a blast.

You have an excellent crew and a great support group including your husband Peterwho races his own Melges 24. With this type of 'surrounding' you must get a lot of informative input. Explain to us how this helps your racing overall once the starting gun goes off.

Having a two-boat team has been very beneficial to my learning curve. Generally we try to share information so both boats benefit from the knowledge. Of course both boats are set up similarly with equal sails. We always start a race day by splitting tacks for a timed run to learn the conditions on the course. We also share information about rig set up and mode before and between races. Although we sail with different sized teams (my boat has 5 people and Peter's has 4) we talk a lot about weight placement and feel. Peter has been extremely supportive of my sailing and he is my biggest fan, but once the gun goes off we are pretty much competitors. We have had some tight crosses and each of us has inadvertently tacked on each other... At the end of day we are all on the same team. We always debrief together and share the lessons learned.

The Worlds in Santa Cruz, California was incredible — a fabulous venue and exciting conditions. You sailed your boat very, very well there. What was your focus in those windy races? If you had

to race it all over again, would you do anything different?

OK, first off let me say to anyone that may be reading this – sailing a Melges 24 in Santa Cruz is a life change experience and everyone should do it. I was expecting wind, which as you know the regatta had plenty of each day. But that last day and the final race I will remember for the rest of my life. The wind was huge, the waves were big and the down wind rides were epic. I remember approaching the last windward mark and seeing a softball-sized bulge in the luff of the main sail and wondering if it was going to shred right before my eyes. As we rounded the windward mark and headed for the offset we popped up on a plane and quickly hit 13 knots. Once the chute went up it was a full adrenaline ride and we loved every minute of it. In the big breeze we played it conservatively at the start and approached late to whatever hole was created by boats drifting in 30+knots. Off the line it was all about going fast and minimizing the tacks. In Santa Cruz we figured out that in a very high wind range where the main is no longer working, keeping the boat sailing fast through the waves with the power in the jib is key. I also learned that in that very heavy wind range my lightweight can be a big advantage over my competition because I have 4 guys on the rail hiking as hard as they possibly can. Another thing I learned about those conditions is that my bicep muscle makes a pretty good mainsheet cleat - I played the main with just my arm strength and was pretty tired after that last race. That final race was our best race result of the event. Looking back I think having a Blast Reacher spinnaker would have been a good move. We were fine with the AP but I can say that in some of the big puffs on the last day we were getting pretty deep and having the ability to put the bow up a little would have been a lot more comfortable. I really hope the worlds make a return to Santa Cruz some day because I would love to try it again.

Full interview online at usmelges24.com

History Meets Speed

by Sam Rogers



When thinking about the 'holy grail' of sailing venues in the world, Newport, R.I. easily makes the top of the list for its deep maritime history and epic sailing conditions.

From the Schooners of the 1800's and 12 Meters from past America's Cups, to the current *Puma Volvo 70* racing team, the full lineage of yacht racing is on display for all sailboat racing enthusiasts. Not only are there impressive sailing sights on the water, the maritime history permeates all the local restaurants, bars and hotels; being sailor in Newport is like being a baseball fan in Cooperstown, you can't help but become part of the history.

This coming summer, Melges 24 sailors will get the unique opportunity to rub shoulders with these racing machines of the past and present during the annual Sail Newport Regatta, July 11-13 2008. Whether you are surfing down a big Atlantic Ocean wave at 18kts, or gawking at the massive J-Class yachts skirting the race course, sailing in Newport is a unforgettable experience.

The Newport Regatta is an annual event hosted out of the Sail Newport facility

located out of Fort Adams, a sight in itself. Sail Newport features a state of the art yachting facility with 2 lifting cranes and a large ramp. Similar to Key West and other Grand Prix events, the Sail Newport Regatta features many classes in different racing circles, and a large regatta tent with live music, food and of course, ample refreshments.

They are a grassroots organization whose main goal is to grow that sport of sailing and give back to the city of Newport, Sail Newport always hosts world class racing events that leave competitors with a sense of satisfaction. "Brad Dallenbaugh and his team do everything when it comes to running a great regatta. Low entry fees, outstanding racing and great parties are staples at a Sail Newport event," states local pro sailor, Anthony Kotoun.

In the past years, this event has featured a budding local Melges 24 fleet with tough outside competition. The Melges 24 fleet this year will be as competitive as ever as teams preparing for the 2008 Nationals in Charleston will look to sharpen their skills in the great

2008 SAIL NEWPORT REGATTA

26 October - 02 November Sail Newport; Newport, Rhode Island

sailing conditions synonymous with Newport. "The growth of the Melges 24 fleet in Newport has been really exciting to see," says Kotoun. "There are several teams and individuals who are committed to make this fleet a success and there are a few other high caliber teams who are planning to make their home in Newport this summer. Whether the racing will be inside the harbor with flat water and current, or outside with big water and waves, either way the racing will be outstanding."

While Newport can rely on its sailing heritage for high regatta attendance, they can also boast of some of the greatest restaurants, unique B and B's and modern hotels in the country. For anyone living in a land locked state, restaurants like the *Black Pearl, Moorings* or *Scales and Shells* will give you a taste of seafood that will give you reason make plans to attend in 2009. If you are planning to attend the 2008 Sail Newport Regatta, be sure to book hotel rooms early since Newport is a popular summer destination for many travelers.





STEVE KOPF TAKES THE REIGNS AS

USMCA SOUTHEAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Effective immediately, Steve Kopf will assume the role as the Melges 24 Southeast District Governor for the USMCA. This position, was formerly occupied by Reid Collins from Flowery Branch, Ga. It is with Reid's careful guidance and dedication to the Southeast Melges 24 fleet that it has experienced continued phenomenal growth.

Full announcement online at usmelges24.com

BILL BLANK NAMED USMCA TECHNICAL CHAIR

Former U.S. Melges 24 Class Association Northeast District Governor Bill Blank, based in Annapolis, Maryland has accepted the post of Technical Chair. All measurement certificate validations, boat measurements, etc. will all be handled by Blank. All inquiries should be directed to Bill on e-mail at tech@usmelges24.com.



IS YOUR MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATE CERTIFICATE VALID?

Are you certain that your measurement certificate is valid? There are two items you need to look for specifically: first, make sure it is completed and signed by the current owner and second, it must be signed and stamped by the USMCA. If you are missing any of the above items, please contact USMCA Technical Chair, Bill Blank for assistance on e-mail at tech@usmelges24.com.

When it comes to your Melges 24, it is very important that you have a validated measurement certificate. It is the one and only piece of documentation that declares your Melges 24 legal to race.

At the 2008 North Americans coming up this fall in Annapolis, Maryland and most certainly the 2009 Worlds a valid measurement certificate will be required for competition.



Sexy, Sweaty Betty.

With almost 50 Melges 24s competing in St. Petersburg and a little more than half of the fleet qualified as Corinthian, you won the coveted amateur title. What an outstanding accomplishment! Tell us about was that like and what do you think was the key moment of the regatta?

Our goal going into the event was a top ten finish. Honestly, we were hoping for the top five, but given the level of the competition we would be happy with a top ten. Needless to say, for Betty's fifth regatta we are really proud of our accomplishment.

The key point in this regatta was the first race and not getting swamped into the fleet. We got lucky with a good start, then stayed consistent in the top half of the fleet. It could have just as easily ended the other way around. I think consistent performances were key in this event, especially since there were no throw outs.

Would you be willing to share some of your top three speed tips?

In the St. Pete conditions, I'd say number one is to get, and keep the boat moving in fast mode. This is so important off the starting line. Keeping it moving free and fast forward in those critical first moments — you're finished if you pinch.

Second, race and course management. While it seems obvious, we stick to the basics before each start: run the line and keep doing wind checks, look up the course and map our strategy. We keep tabs on the

boats around us. Not necessarily who the leaders are, but who our competition is. St. Pete proved just how important it was to keep your head out of the boat and think long term with shifty conditions. In addition, our team chemistry was great. We all knew our roles and how to support each other. Having all those components come together was a huge key for us at this event, and made it a lot of fun.

Third, get a Speedo. I had never used a Speedo until this past summer and it has really helped me in gaining and keeping those couple extra tenths of a knot. In St. Pete, if we wanted to hang with Hutchinson and *Full Throttle*, we needed to keep our speed at 6.4 knots.

There's no way to really gauge boat speed without having that tool. You think you're fast but really being able to see the numbers is a huge advantage and it gave me the edge to make the boat hit the target speed (for the conditions).

Sweaty Betty — now that's a boat name! Tell us about how you came up with that name... or can you?

What's the saying? "We could tell you, but then we'd have to...." Really the truth is the name found us over a beer (or three). Just know wherever *Betty* is, there's fun to be had.

It is our understanding that *Betty* is destined for Worlds in Sardinia. She will

be one of only a handful of American contingents. You must be really excited as it is rumored that more than 120 boats will be in attendance. Tell us a little about who your crew will be and what goals have you set for the Sardinia Worlds?

When the opportunity arose to take the boat over to Sardinia for Worlds this year, I jumped on it. So, first and foremost our goal is to have fun and race hard. I'd be really thrilled with a top 25 finish. None of us have sailed over there, so our plan is to get over there early, practice and get acclimated to the conditions.

I'm really excited about our team. Marty Kullman, the 2005 Melges 24 Corinthian World Champion, will be calling tactics; Justin Hood - our boat speed guru — will be trimming and also backing Marty up on tactics; Bill Wiggins will keep the pointy end straight and is on top of our rig tune; and our fifth is Leo Ross, who sailed with Marty during their championship run.

What is next for *Betty* after Worlds? The Nationals are in Charleston and then there is the 2008 North American Championship in Annapolis? Will we see *Betty* at these events too?

Yes, be on the lookout for *Betty* at these events. I'm having a great time back in the fleet and looking forward to a good run over the next couple of years, especially as we gear up toward the 2009 Annapolis World Championship.

2008-2009 U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2008 NORTH AMERICAN RANKING I	EVENITO

5/30	-	6/1	Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD	Detroit, MI	. Greg McCliment • gmccliment@twmi.rr.com
6/27	-	6/29	ACURA Ullman Sails Race Week Melges 24 Gold Cup	Long Beach, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
7/11	-	7/13	Newport Regatta	Newport, RI	Kim Cooper • kim.cooper@sailnewport.org
7/20	-	7/25	Whidbey Island Race Week 2008 PCC	Oak Harbor, WA	Gary Stuntz • jibeset@msn.com
9/18	-	9/21	U.S. National Championship	Annapolis, MD	Reggie Fairchild • m24tiburon@gmail.com
10/4	-	10/5	Lake Geneva Fall Championship	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • andy@melges.com
10/20	-	10/26	2008 Melges 24 North American Championship	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburon@gmail.com
11/15	-	11/16	King's Day Regatta Atlantic Coast Championship	Jacksonville, FL	Steve Kopf • skopf@advan-tek.com

2008 REGATTAS

5/2	-	5/4	Gateway Melges 24 Spring Regatta	Carlyle, IL	Tom Wyman • twyman01@charter.net
5/16	-	5/18	Sperry Top-Sider Seattle NOOD	Seattle, WA	Gary Stuntz • jibeset@msn.com
5/17	-	5/18	Muskegeon Regatta	Muskegeon, MI	John Schumacher • johns@torresen.com
6/13	-	6/15	Sperry Top-Sider Chicago NOOD	Chicago, IL	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
7/24	-	7/27	Sperry Top-Sider Marblehead NOOD	Marblehead (Boston), MA	Bill Carleton • m24tiburon@gmail.com
8/23	-	8/24	Grand Traverse Invitational Regatta	Traverse City, MI	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
8/30	-	8/31	Red Fox Regatta	Charlevoix, MI	Marty Jensen • searaymarty@yahoo.com
8/30	-	9/1	CBYRA Annapolis Race Week	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburon@gmail.com
9/6	-	9/7	Sperry Top-Sider Larchmont NOOD	Larchmont, NY	Bill Carleton • m24tiburon@gmail.com
9/19	-	9/21	Sperry Top-Sider Houston NOOD	Seabrook, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/11	-	10/12	WFORC	Pensacola, FL	Steve Kopf • skopf@advan-tek.com
12/5	-	12/7	2008 Key Largo Regatta	Key Largo, FL	Jerry Creasman • jcreasman@aol.com

2009 REGATTAS

1/19	-	1/23	2009 ACURA Key West	Key West, FL	www.premiere-racing.com
5/2	-	5/3	Gateway Melges 24 Spring Regatta	Carlyle, IL Tom Wy	man • twyman01@charter.net
10/27	-	11/7	2009 Melges 24 World Championship	Annapolis, MDBill Carle	ton · m24tiburon@gmail.com

2008 HALL OF FAME

ACURA Key West Race Week*	Dave Ullman (USA)
St. Petersburg NOOD*	Terry Hutchinson (USA)
Texoma Lakefest*	Shawn Grisham (USA)
Charleston Race Week	Travis Weisleder (USA)
Annapolis NOOD	Brian Porter (USA)

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