

The Official Magazine of the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association

Volume 6 ★ Issue 1 ★ Winter 2009

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M24 USA



nationals

2009 Melges 24 U.S. National Championship
June 11-14

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On The Cover: USMCA Southeast District Governor Steve Kopf piles into the weathermark with West Coast-based, husband and wife Peter (539) and Kristen Lane (623) hot on his heels; Photo by JH Peterson **Photography:** JH Peterson, Joy Dunigan **Contributing Writers:** Joy Dunigan **Advertising and Sponsorship Inquiries:** Contact JOY for a Media Kit at (912) 398-5776 or via email at joy.dunigan@joysavannah.com



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U.S. Melges 24 Class President Travis Weisleder



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I have been a Melges 24 owner for over 9 years and this will be my 5th year as a member of the USMCA Executive Committee. It's incredible to look back over time and see how much the Melges 24 Class here in the U.S. and the world has evolved.

2008 has been a year of learning how much the class has grown, continues to grow as well as trying to control and sustain it. I think we have done a good job at that, but we still have a ways to go. As many of you know our Corinthian division is something we have worked hard at developing. This amateur division, i.e. the Corinthians are really the bread and butter of the U.S. fleet and we have instilled a number of policies and procedures that hopefully will bring clarity and confidence while competing as a Corinthian. We understand how important it is to protect the integrity of this category of sailor and guide if possible. With that fact being known, I have personally gotten involved with the ISAF Classification Committee to help ensure that as they enhance their system and procedures, that our input and experience is known and

added. I encourage everyone to compete as a Corinthian when you can, but please do pay careful attention to the website and competitor announcements as they contain valuable info about competing as a Corinthian.

Looking ahead to 2009, we are excited to present the very first U.S. National Championship Series — the first of its kind for the U.S. Class. This series is a compilation of all things that make the Melges 24 class great. After careful consideration, each District Governor named five events within their district where they wish to promote fleet growth. These events reach deep into the heart of the U.S. Class. Some events you may recognize, while others will be brand new to you. Within each district schedule is a North American Ranking event. This Series offers you the best of both worlds — great fleet racing if traveling is not for you, yet the opportunity to participate at a recognized event and see how you stack up to everyone else in the country. Each region also showcases a high-profile regatta for those that love showing up where the main conversation is about the 'rock stars' that make regular appearances in the Melges 24 class. This special Series of events very much possesses something for everyone.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Eastport Yacht Club and all the sponsors who were involved with the 2008 North American Championship. It was the largest one ever and we are certain that the 2009 Worlds during late October will be equally successful; do plan to attend. There is nothing like competing at a World Championship in the Melges 24. It is an experience you'll never forget, and will never regret. I understand with today's economic pressures our budgets are stretched, but please do try to make it to Annapolis, you will not be disappointed.

In addition, thank you to all the many supporters, industry partners and vendors of the U.S. Melges 24 Class. You help keep our class going, boats sailing and enable us to continue to enjoy the sport of sailing. I want to give a special thanks to Joy Dunigan, our Class Executive Secretary, she is the one who really makes it all happen; THANK YOU JOY.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to get involved with your local fleet at whatever level you can. Only your involvement will help shape where we go as a class and organization.

I hope to see you all out on the race course in 2009 and if I don't know you, please stop me and introduce yourself!

U.S. Melges 24 Class Executive Secretary Joy Dunigan



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2008 was an exciting year for the U.S. Melges 24 Class, and I believe that 2009 will be equally extraordinary. We have a number of new initiatives and efforts that will help the fleet continue to grow and make it a stronger organization.

Among these efforts is another incredible line-up of thirteen North American Ranking events including the very popular Sperry Top-Sider St. Petersburg NOOD, a West Coast U.S. National Championship, a midwest Gold Cup and a super World Championship in Annapolis. Although Key West is an exciting venue and the class has been the largest many years running; without fail St. Pete's, year-after-year delivers one of the largest collections of Corinthian players. The USMCA is always so proud of the participation level at this event as it brings out many of our weekend warriors, amateur drivers and new fleet comers.

Speaking of Corinthians, some of you may have already noticed that we have instituted some new Corinthian entry policies. At all major events where the USMCA sanctions a Corinthian division, there are now firm deadlines for entries with a challenge period to follow. What is and who is a Cat 1, Cat 2 and Cat 3 is a hot topic. Full crew lists of each team will be made available to the public prior to an event so should you have any questions, there is ample time for the USMCA to address those issues without affecting the racing, results and/or prize giving. Once the challenge period is up, that is it. Who has qualified at that time, is what is in effect for the event.

All USMCA Corinthian Declaration forms should be submitted to me by the deadline via email (joy.dunigan@melges24.com), or faxed to +1 (912) 756-6728. DO NOT submit these to the regatta and/or Organizing Authorities.

Additional initiatives include the newly created 2009 U.S. Championship Series, (see page 7). All of the USMCA District Governors (DG) really put in a lot of thought and energy to build what we hope will be a fun and alternative catalyst for more fleet growth at the local level. A special thank you goes out to each DG as they really gave careful thought to which events were the best ones for the Series. Stay close to the USMCA website as all the latest and greatest with this new movement will be posted as it happens.

Another quick item to point out that has changed, and effective January 1 is that Sail Stickers are no longer available through Melges Performance Sailboats. Not only has the actual cost of the Sail Stickers increased, but the International Melges 24 Class Association is solely responsible for distributing these and can be purchased online at melges24.com.

As always, I love being at all the events and most of all really enjoy seeing everyone and catching up with what's new and fresh on your mind. I try to keep an open-mind policy. Don't hesitate to make suggestions and pitch new ideas. This is your class and I encourage you to be involved.

Sail fast in 2009!

THE usmca

2009

Championship Series

S E R I E S

The USMCA is proud to present the very first ever U.S. Melges 24 Championship Series. Its purpose is to reaffirm the power and drive that this 24-ft sportboat delivers on a regular basis, from coast-to-coast, north to south, from inland lakes and coastal bays. This series digs deep into the grass roots of the U.S. fleet with a five event agenda per USMCA district (Southeast, Northeast, Midwest, Gulf Coast, West Coast and Pacific Northwest) to form the 2009 U.S. Championship Series Circuit of 30 top-end regattas.

We hope to see some new faces, present new challenges and in the end, award a new U.S. Melges 24 National Series Champion.



SOUTHEAST

- #1 **Sperry Top-Sider St. Petersburg NOOD***Feb. 13-15
St. Petersburg, FL
- #2 **Porsche Cup of Naples**Mar. 28-29
Naples, FL
- #3 **Charleston Race Week***Apr. 16-19
Charleston, SC
- #4 **Charleston Harbor Challenge**Sept. 19-20
Charleston, SC
- #5 **Melges 24 Atlantic Coast Championship***Nov. 21-22
Davis Island, FL

NORTHEAST

- #1 **Sperry Top-Sider Annapolis NOOD**Apr. 24-26
Annapolis, MD
- #2 **Sail Newport Regatta***Jul. 10-12
Newport, RI
- #3 **Heart Cup**Aug. 1-2
Ocean City, NJ
- #4 **CBYRA Annapolis Race Week***Sept. 5-7
Annapolis, MD
- #5 **Columbus Day Regatta**Oct. 10
Milford, CT



This is what it's all about! • This fleet shot from the 2008 North American Championship in Annapolis this past fall tells us a lot. Recently named Rolex Yachtsman of the Year and 2008 Melges 24 NA Champion Terry Hutchinson blasts off with fantastic speed surrounded by Corinthians Greg McCliment (570), Donald Wight (736), Guy Mossman (245), Charlie Hess (615) and Shane Vowels (624). This is the true spirit of the USMCA at its best!

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MIDWEST

- #1 **Gateway Melges 24 Regatta**May 2-3
Carlyle, IL
- #2 **Muskegon Regatta**May 16-17
Muskegon, MI
- #3 **Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD***May 29-31
Detroit, MI
- #4 **Traverse City | Gold Cup Regatta**.....Aug 22-23
Traverse City, MI
- #5 **Lake Geneva Fall Championship***.....Oct. 4-5
Lake Geneva, WI

GULF COAST

- #1 **Melges 24 Open**Mar. 28-29
Dallas, TX
- #2 **Lakefest Regatta**Apr. 17-19
Denison, TX
- #3 **Mid-Region Challenge**Jun. 6-7
Stockton, MO
- #4 **Lighthouse Regatta***June 27-28
Oklahoma City, OK
- #5 **George Griffith Memorial Regatta**Sept. 26-27
Dallas, TX

*2009 North American Ranking Events

2009 worlds annapolis

23 October - 1 November

Eastport Yacht Club

Annapolis, Maryland USA

MAKE YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS NOW!

If you plan to arrive early for training and practice you will be competing with the Annapolis Boat Shows (Oct. 8-18) as well as the Naval Academy Homecoming on Oct. 24 preceded by a week of activities for out-of-town alumni. Housing will be difficult, so everyone is encouraged to take action now. Do not wait until the last minute!

ENTRY DEADLINE : 21 SEPTEMBER 2009

www.annapolismelges24.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

23 OCT - 25 OCT Boat Measurement, Sail Measurement,
Weigh-In, Registration

24 OCT - 25 OCT Pre Worlds Regatta

25 OCT Opening Ceremonies

26 OCT - 31 OCT World Championship Racing

1 NOV Haul Out

WEST COAST

- #1 **Spring Keel Regatta**Mar. 7-8
San Francisco, CA
- #2 **U.S. National Championship***Jun. 11-14
San Francisco, CA
- #3 **Trans Tahoe Regatta**Jul. 10-11
Lake Tahoe, CA
- #4 **Fiesta Regatta**.....July 25-26
Santa Barbara, CA
- #5 **San Francisco Race Week**Sept. 18-20
San Francisco, CA

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

- #1 **Puget Sound Spring Regatta**Apr. 18-19
Sacramento, CA
- #2 **Sperry Top-Sider Seattle NOOD***May 15-17
Pacific Coast Championship
Seattle, WA
- #3 **Whidbey Island Race Week**Jul. 12-17
Seattle, WA
- #4 **Puget Sound Sailing Championship (PSSC)**Oct. 10-11
Seattle, WA
- #5 **Melges 24 Grand Prix**Oct. 23-25
Seattle, WA

HOW IT WORKS

- Scoring is tracked by sail number. Should an owner sell his/her boat and acquire a new one, their results will score under the new sail number.
- Each sail number's (boat) five best regattas count toward his/her final score with at least one of the events being counted as a regional event in a district that is not a North American Ranking event.
- This series uses a high point scoring system as follows:
 - 1st = 40 points
 - 2nd = 39 points
 - 3rd = 38 points
 - ... = etc.
 - 40th = 1 point
 - 41st or beyond receives no USCS points, yet, receives participation points
- Participation points are awarded as follows:
 - Each sail number (boat) receives 5 points for regional events
 - Each sail number (boat) receives 10 points for NA Ranking events
- To qualify, each sail number (boat) must maintain a current USMCA membership.

Visit the official website of the USMCA, usmelges24.com often as reports, updates as well as the overall scoring of the season will be featured.

Full details of all the U.S. Championship events can be found on the web at usmelges24.com.



JH PETERSON • PHOTOGRAPHY



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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2009 HYERES, FRANCE AUGUST 20-29



The Melges 24 European Championship brings out the very best the International Class has to offer in high-performance, sportboat racing. 2009 takes the fleet to the beautiful venue of Hyeres, France where potentially more than 100 teams will congregate for one of sailing's most coveted titles. Organizing the event is COYCH, with the gracious support of the town of Hyeres and harbor. This is the same organization that brought you the 2006 Euros. Stay close to the website of the IM24CA, melges24.com as well as the official event website.

www.m24european2009.com

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1st, 2nd* & 3rd
2008 Key West Race Week

1st* ★ 2008 Sail Newport Regatta

1st* ★ 2008
Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD

1st* ★ SNIM Marseille

1st ★ 2007
Gulf Coast Championship

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2009-2010 U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2009 NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVENTS

1/19 - 1/23	2009 ACURA Key West	Key West, FL	www.premiere-racing.com
2/13 - 2/15	Sperry Top-Sider St. Petersburg NOOD	St. Petersburg, FL	Steve Kopf • skopf@advan-tek.com
4/16 - 4/19	Charleston Race Week	Charleston, SC	Steve Kopf • skopf@advan-tek.com
5/15 - 5/17	Sperry Top-Sider Seattle NOOD PCC	Seattle, WA	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com
5/29 - 5/31	Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD	Detroit, MI.....	Greg McCliment • gmcliment@twmi.rr.com
6/11 - 6/14	2009 Melges 24 U.S. National Championship	San Francisco, CA.....	Neal Ruxton • nealruxton@jamjam.com
6/27 - 6/28	Lighthouse Regatta	Oklahoma City, OK	Andy Walford • awalford@cox.net
7/10 - 7/12	Sail Newport Regatta	Newport, RI	JC Raby • jcr@bostonmeridian.com
9/5 - 9/7	CBYRA Annapolis Race Week	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburon@gmail.com
10/4 - 10/5	Lake Geneva Fall Championship	Lake Geneva, WI.....	Andy Burdick • andy@melges.com
10/23 - 11/1	2009 Melges 24 World Championship	Annapolis, MD.....	Liz Filter • emfilter@verizon.net
11/21 - 11/22	Melges 24 Atlantic Coast Championship	Tampa, FL.....	George Haynie • ghaynie@tampabay.rr.com

2009 REGATTAS

1/24 - 1/24	Melges 24 GC Winter Racing Series, Event No. 2	Dallas, TX	Karen Rosenbaum • karosenbaum@yahoo.com
2/7 - 2/7	Melges 24 GC Winter Racing Series, Event No. 3	Dallas, TX	Karen Rosenbaum • karosenbaum@yahoo.com
2/14 - 2/14	RegattaPRO One-Design Regatta Series, Event No. 4	Sausalito, CA	Jeff Zarwell • jzarwell@regattapro.com
2/21 - 2/21	Melges 24 GC Winter Racing Series, Event No. 4	Dallas, TX	Karen Rosenbaum • karosenbaum@yahoo.com
3/7 - 3/8	Spring Keel Regatta	San Francisco, CA.....	Neal Ruxton • nealruxton@jamjam.com
3/7 - 3/7	Melges 24 GC Winter Racing Series, Event No. 5	Dallas, TX	Karen Rosenbaum • karosenbaum@yahoo.com
3/21 - 3/22	2009 Southeast Inland Championship	Lake Lanier, GA	Frank Vandall • fvandal@emory.edu

2010 REGATTAS

9/13 - 9/19	2010 North American Championship	Rochester, NY	Peter Cucci • peter.cucci@xerox.com
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2011 REGATTAS

May or July	Melges 24 World Championship	Corpus Christie, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
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2008 HALL OF FAME

ACURA Key West Race Week*	Dave Ullman (USA)	Melges 24 Gold Cup*	Bob Tennant (USA)
St. Petersburg NOOD*	Terry Hutchinson (USA)	Whidbey Island Race Week*	Dave Brede (USA)
Texoma Lakefest*	Shawn Grisham (USA)	Newport Regatta*	Alan Field (USA)
Charleston Race Week	Travis Weisleder (USA)	Melges 24 U.S. National Championship*	Brian Porter (USA)
Annapolis NOOD	Brian Porter (USA)	North American Championship*	Terry Hutchinson (USA)
Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD*	Alan Field (USA)	Atlantic Coast Championship*	John Kolius (USA)

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	Northwest:	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com

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