

# M<sup>24</sup> USA

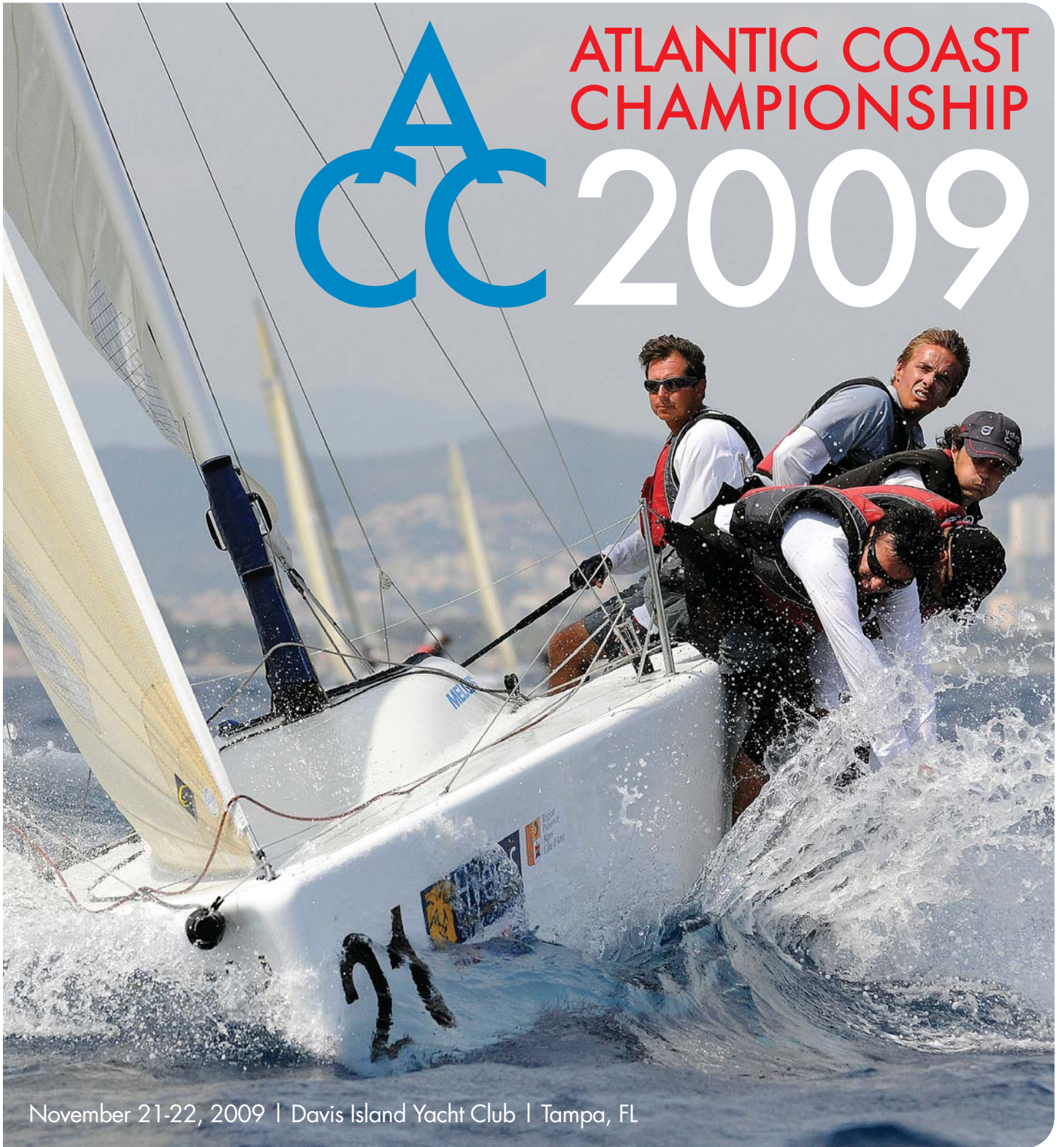
The Official Magazine of the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association

Volume 6 ★ Issue 4 ★ Fall | Winter 2009

[www.usmelges24.com](http://www.usmelges24.com)

## ACC 2009

### ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIP



November 21-22, 2009 | Davis Island Yacht Club | Tampa, FL



Photo: Uka Uka Racing  
Team of Lorenzo Bressani,  
going fast forward to win  
the 2009 Europeans.  
By Fiona Brown

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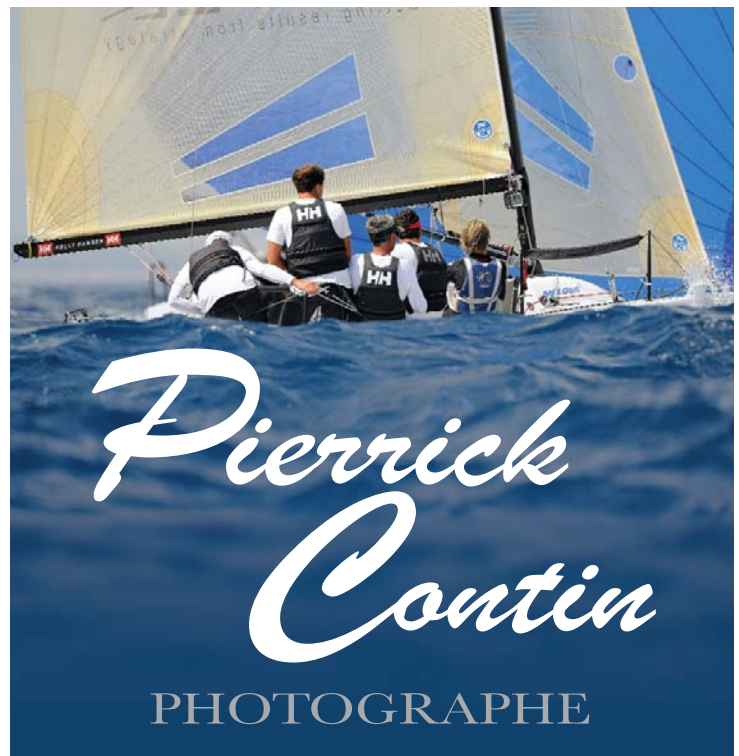


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**CREDITS AND CONTRIBUTORS:** Concept/Design/Editorial: JOY

*On The Cover:* Racing under clear blue skies peaked at just under ten knots at the 2009 European Championship. Photo by Pierrick Contin  
*Photography:* Pierrick Contin, Joy Dunigan *Contributing Writers:* Joy Dunigan *Advertising and Sponsorship Inquiries:* Call JOY at (912) 398-5776 or via email at [communications@usmelges24.com](mailto:communications@usmelges24.com).



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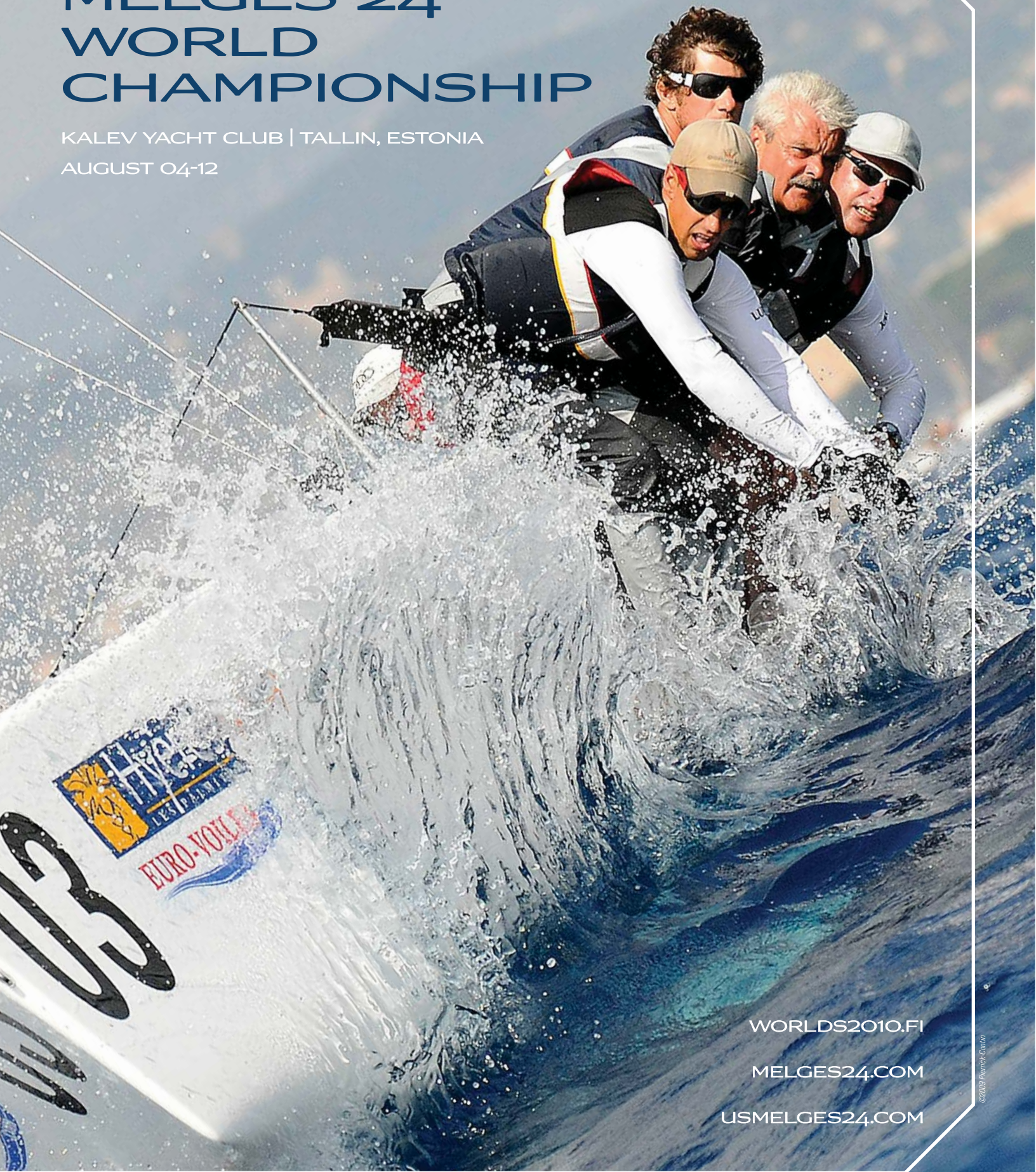
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# 2010 MELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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AUGUST 04-12



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2001

October 21 Jacksonville, FL Winners: Doug Clark & Paula Zubrycki

2003

August 24 Charleston, SC Winner: Ross Griffith, *Moving Target*

August 1  
Bay Head, NJ  
Winner: Travis Weisleder,  
*USA-416 Carloan.com*

2004



2005



2007

On November 20, James Spithill on *USA-515 Luna Rossa* took first place over Dave Ullman.

2008

Chuck Holzman's *USA-660 Flyer*, with Bora Gulari at the helm, won on November 18 in Jacksonville, FL. *USA-513 Lightwave Nano* followed closely behind.

November 23 Tampa, FL  
Winner: John Koliuss, *USA-776 KO Sailing*

# Thaw Out

**November 21-22**  
Davis Island Yacht Club  
Tampa, Florida  
[www.diyc.org](http://www.diyc.org)

*at the*

# Atlantic Coast Championship

Time sails when you are having fun, especially when the sails are up on your Melges 24. For nearly 10 years, the annual Atlantic Coast Championship has been in full swing. Being held this year in the 'sunshine state' of Florida, sailors are able to defrost from their winter weather chill with fun-in-the-sun sailing along Tampa Bay.

Each year this event continues to prosper along with the Melges 24 Class. Previous years have given us highlights such as when Doug Clark and Paula Zubrycki won in 2001 by only one point over Morgan Reeser and Neil Sullivan. In 2005 with 51 boats registered for the event, James Spithill on *USA-515 Luna Rossa* set the mark for competitors by winning the championship with 11-year-old Mac Agnese on board. Held at the Davis Island Yacht Club in 2008, John Kolius on *USA-776 KO Sailing* took the gold. After winning the Atlantic Coast Championship, John said "Yesterday was physically demanding. Today it was very mental. We were very, very fortunate."

For 2009's event, coastal winds from the Gulf Coast allows for your Melges 24 to show off its high performance capabilities. Crews will also have their boat handling skills tested as well as their strength, physically and mentally. We all know your Melges 24 has the ability to outperform, but do you and your crew?

To test your skills, come join this year's Atlantic Coast Championship, held in Tampa,

Florida on November 21-22, 2009. For the second year in a row, the Davis Island Yacht Club is proud to host this exciting event. Regatta chair, Bob Kroetsch talks about the upcoming event, "The DIYC and I are planning on making it a tradition to host the yearly annual Atlantic Coast Championship. Instead of starting the races early in the morning when it's chilly when you need your thermals, the DIYC starts the races later in the afternoon around 3 p.m. to allow the Melges 24 crews to work on their tans but more important, to get the best wind knots to allow your Melges 24 to reach it's top-notch speeds."

After a full day of racing on Saturday, your crew will be ready to kick back and relax at the Saturday evening Dinner Regatta. The DIYC is catering to the sailors by hosting a dinner party that evening for sailors to socialize and take the edge off. Upon entry, all crew members receive free admission, including dinner, to the party.

The perks don't stop there. SLAM will be providing prizes of high performance sportswear for the top three teams. So if you think you have what it takes to be at the top of the chart, then come win some great prizes, enjoy food with friends and above all, tight Melges 24 racing.



**John Kolius's *USA-776 KO Sailing* won 2008's ACC on November 23, 2008 in Tampa, FL, with Steve Kopf's *USA-773 Blur* placing second.**

# It's All About the



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**The Corinthian Division is composed of amateur sailors, meaning all sailors on board are classified no higher than a Category 2 by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). If any sailor on board is classified as a Category 3, then that team is considered to be professionals, but being in the Corinthian Division does not stop the amateur sailors from making some waves at the Melges 24 events. We spoke with some Corinthian Division boat owners who have made their mark by placing among the professionals.**

**Among 2009's Corinthian Champions we spoke with is Rob Butler on CAN-177 *Eager Beaver*, who took first place in the 2009 Melges 24 St. Petersburg NOOD in the Corinthian Division and placed 7th overall. Not bad for an amateur.**

**M24\*USA: Rob, How did you become a part of the Melges 24 Class?**

**RB:** My wife and I were sailing a J105 in Key West and we saw some Melges 24s flying past us going downwind. Not only that, but the guys on board seemed to be having a blast. My wife Sandy and I looked at one another and said, "We've got to get one of those." In 2008, we bought a used Melges 24 and just recently bought a new boat, CAN-800 *Eager Beaver*.

Joining the Melges 24 Class, we were highly accepted. In some sports it is very competitive, but the teams willingly helped us out. It may be

that they are so willing to help because the professionals will beat us either way. One guy in particular that really helped us out was Paul Hulsey at the 2009 Detroit NOOD. He gave us some great advice of how to get the boat set up the right way. Everyone is just so friendly and more than happy to help out their fellow competitor. It is all in good fun and we are still learning.

**M24\*USA: Speaking of Paul Hulsey, he took first place at the 2009 Gold Cup Regatta for the Corinthian Division and 6th place among the professionals. We asked him how he is able to stay on point with competing among the professionals?**

**PH:** Definitely knowing your team and spending time on the boat. My team and I pick a travel schedule that is acceptable amongst us all. Also, it's finding a group that you enjoy being with and stay with them. Having an alternate crew is tough because making a few mistakes can cost you ten boats at the rounding mark.

**M24\*USA: Bruce Ayres on USA-637 *Monsoon* has the same opinion. Bruce took first place at the 2009 U.S. National Championship and placed fourth overall.**

**BA:** Having a great team that you stick with is the key to it all. I've been with Don Smith for 13 years now and Jon Pinckney for about 10 years. Knowing my crew allows us to sail our best. It also allows us to set up and break down the rig the most efficient way possible.

**M24\*USA: Rob, what is *Eager Beaver's* future goal to accomplish?**

**RB:** Our only goal is just to have fun. I'm at the age of 60 years and if I don't enjoy something, then there is no need to bother with it. I just go out to have fun, learn and live a little. It's great with the Melges 24 Class because unlike any other sport, for example golf, you can't just go on the grass and start playing golf with the professional Tiger Woods, but with the Melges 24 Class you can compete against the professionals and mingle among them. The whole sport is just fabulous.

**PH:** I agree with Rob. It's all about having fun. I admire Mike Dow's *Flying Toaster* team. They seem to have the right combination to do well at regattas and have fun. When I see those guys they are always laughing and enjoying sailing to the fullest.

**M24\*USA: After speaking with Paul, Rob, and Bruce we have learned that placing among the top 10 is always hoped for. However, that is not the reason for their team's attendance to the events. The Corinthian Division teams learn from and respect the professionals, but are more than willing to give them a challenge in competition while having a lot of fun.**

**Thank you Paul, Rob and Bruce for speaking with the M24\*USA. Good luck all Melges 24 sailors on the upcoming events. May the best boat win.**



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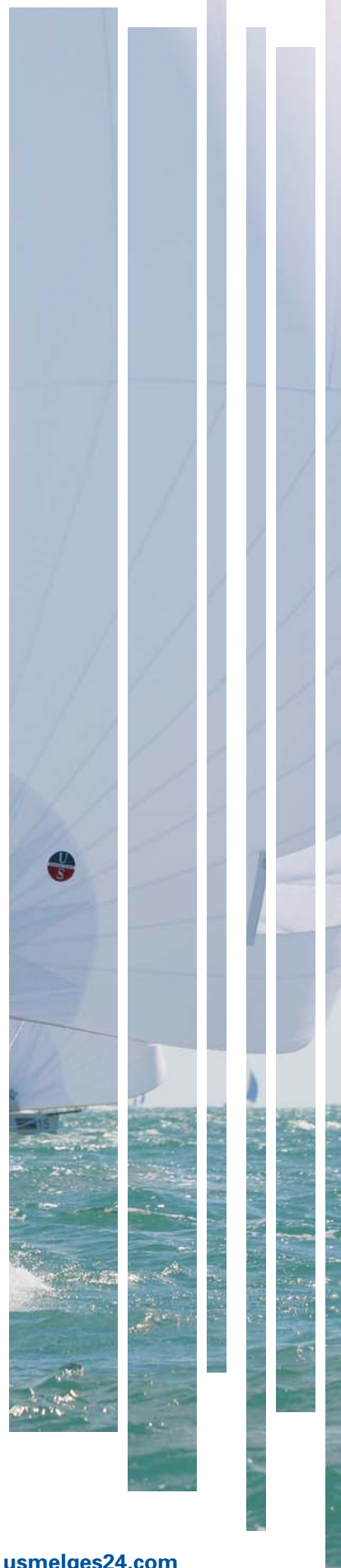
# FUN!



# 2010

## NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Rochester Yacht Club | Rochester, New York  
September 17-25



Event schedule is posted online.

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1st ★ 2007\*  
European Championship

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

\*Partial Inventory

## 2010 USMCA Membership: Get Ahead Of The Game

With only a few months to go until it will be a new year, the time has come to renew USMCA memberships for 2010. In order to participate at any U.S. Melges 24 Class events, the renewal of membership each year is required. It is so simple and easy.

Don't wait until the last minute, while standing in line at a regatta when you could be preparing your boat and crew for the race. In the heat of battle, every second counts!

Being a USMCA member means you will always be in know. Members receive quarterly issues of M24\*USA and also the annual M24 Yearbook. These publications will provide you with current information about the class and regattas and also amazing action shots taken by award-winning photographers.

The yearly dues also ensure that the USMCA website can be the best it can be and continue to bring you information about the rules, upcoming events and race results.

Most importantly, the USMCA enables sailors meet like-minded individuals with a common interest. The class is committed to uniting Melges 24 sailors to celebrate this incredible need-for-speed boat.

Renewing membership is simple; just a click of the mouse. Go to [www.usmelges24.com](http://www.usmelges24.com) to be ahead of the game and not sit out on the side lines.

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## 2009-2011 U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 2009 REGATTAS

10/3 - 10/4	<b>SLAM [MW] Lake Geneva Fall Championship</b>	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • andy@melges.com
10/8 - 10/11	<b>Sail 22 Melges 24 Worlds Tuning Regatta</b>	Annapolis, MD	Sail 22 • info@sail22.com
10/10	<b>SLAM [NE] Columbus Day Regatta</b>	Westbrook, CT	JC Raby • jcr@bostonmeridian.com
10/10 - 10/11	<b>SLAM [PNW] Puget Sound Sailing Championships (PSSC)</b>	Seattle, WA	Dave Brede • davebrede@zaaz.com
10/10 - 10/11	<b>OI' Man Of The Sea</b>	Ft. Worth, TX	Mark Smith • mark@verticaldatacom.com
10/10 - 10/11	<b>Melges 24 One Design Regatta</b>	Westbrook, CT	Nick Amendola • ncamendola@comcast.net
10/17 - 10/18	<b>EYC One Design Regatta</b>	Annapolis, MD	Liz Filter • emfilter@verizon.net
10/23 - 10/31	<b>2009 Melges 24 World Championship</b>	Annapolis, MD	Liz Filter • emfilter@verizon.net
10/23 - 10/25	<b>SLAM [PNW] Melges 24 Grand Prix</b>	Seattle, WA	Dave Brede • davebrede@zaaz.com
11/21 - 11/22	<b>SLAM [SE] Melges 24 Atlantic Coast Championship</b>	Tampa, FL	George Haynie • ghaynie@tampabay.rr.com

### 2010 REGATTAS

1/18 - 1/22	<b>Key West 2010 presented by Nautica</b>	Key West, FL	Premiere Racing, Inc. • kwinfo@premiere-racing.com
2/4 - 2/7	<b>Charlotte Harbor Regatta</b>	Charlotte Harbor, FL	Brian Gleason • gleason@sun-herald.com
4/7 - 4/11	<b>Charleston Race Week</b>	Charleston, SC	CORA • info@charlestonraceweek.com
4/16 - 4/18	<b>Texoma Lakefest Regatta</b>	Denison, TX	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
5/12 - 5/15	<b>2010 Texas Gulf Coast Championship</b>	Corpus Christi, TX	Teri Ficken • ficken78374@aol.com
9/17 - 9/25	<b>2010 North American Championship</b>	Rochester, NY	Peter Cucci • peter.cucci@xerox.com

### 2011 REGATTAS

5/11 - 5/21	<b>Melges 24 World Championship</b>	Corpus Christi, TX	Teri Ficken • ficken78374@aol.com
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## 2009 HALL OF FAME

<b>Key West Race Week</b>	<b>Lorenzo Bressani/Lorenzo Santini (ITA)</b>
<b>St. Petersburg NOOD</b>	<b>Dave Ullman (USA)</b>
<b>Southeast Inland Championship</b>	<b>Mike Krantz (USA)</b>
<b>Charleston Race Week</b>	<b>Scott Nixon (USA)</b>
<b>Annapolis NOOD</b>	<b>Lorenzo Bressani/Lorenzo Santini (ITA)</b>
<b>Pacific Coast Championship   Seattle NOOD</b>	<b>Dan Kaseler (USA)</b>
<b>Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD</b>	<b>Alan Field (USA)</b>
<b>Melges 24 U.S. National Championship</b>	<b>Brian Porter (USA)</b>

<b>Sail Newport Regatta</b>	<b>Scott Nixon (USA)</b>
<b>Whidbey Island Race Week</b>	<b>Dan Kaseler (USA)</b>
<b>2009 Heart Cup</b>	<b>Sean Scarborough (USA)</b>
<b>Verve Cup</b>	<b>Jen Wilson (USA)</b>
<b>Gold Cup Regatta</b>	<b>Alan Field (USA)</b>
<b>CBYRA Annapolis Race Week</b>	<b>Alan Field (USA)</b>
<b>San Francisco Race Week</b>	<b>Robert Harf (USA)</b>
<b>Charleston Harbor Challenge</b>	<b>John Lucas (USA)</b>

## U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS CONTACT INFORMATION

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**West Coast:** Neal Ruxton • nealruxton@jamjam.com

**Northwest:** Dave Brede • davebrede@zaaz.com

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Muskegon Regatta Champion  
Coastal Living Sail Newport Regatta Champion

## 2008

Corinthian World Champion  
US National Corinthian Champion  
North American Champion  
US Atlantic Coast Champion  
Norwegian Champion  
Nordic Circuit Champion  
Charleston Race Week Champion  
NE & SE District Circuit Champion

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