

# CHICAGO YACHT CLUB

FOUNDED 1875



A Tradition of Yachting Excellence

**Proposal to host the 2014 Melges 24 North American Championship**



Chicago Yacht Club - Belmont Station

## **1. Statement of Intent**

The purpose of this document is to give the International Melges 24 Class a broad overview of what Chicago Yacht Club would like to do for the 2014 Melges 24 North American Championship. The Chicago Yacht Club is very excited for the opportunity to work with the Melges 24 Class, and is looking forward to growing a strong relationship with the class for years to come.

## **2. Location**

The Midwest Fleet proposes hosting the 2014 event at the Chicago Yacht Club-Belmont Station located in Lake Michigan/Chicago. The event will be a stand-alone regatta with a Race Committee comprised of US Sailing trained RC members from CYC and volunteers from the Chicago sailing community.

The preliminary committee estimates that 15 - 20 boats from the midwest district will participate in the event. We estimate another 15-20 boats will represent the rest of North America. This would bring the estimate base number of boats participating to between 30 and 40 boats, which is reasonable given the number of boats that attended the US Nationals in 2011 in Lake Geneva, WI (38). With an average of 5 crew per boat, we estimate that North American's will bring in 150-200 sailors.

## **3. Melges Dealer Support**

Discussions have begun with Melges Boat Works to ensure their continued support of this event.

## **4. Sponsoring Yacht Club**

### ***Chicago Yacht Club:***

[www.chicagoyachtclub.org](http://www.chicagoyachtclub.org)

The Chicago Yacht Club was founded in 1875 with 37 members. The club has two facilities, Chicago Monroe Station, and Belmont Station. With over 2000 active members, Chicago Yacht Club is home to some of the Top One-Design Fleets in North America.

The marquee event for the club is the annual Race to Mackinac. At 333 miles, the MAC is the longest freshwater race- going from Chicago Lighthouse to Round Island Light house on Mackinac Island, Michigan. The race attracts 300+ boats and crews numbering upwards of 4000 annually for this event. Racers from around the world have participated and won this regatta.

Chicago Yacht Club holds a rich tradition of hosting some of North America's Premiere Racing Events. CYC is the annual host of the Chicago NOOD regatta, Chicago Race to Mackinac and the Verve Cup. Each of these regattas attracts racers from around the world. Attendance at each of these regattas reaches upwards of 300 boats from across the country. Additionally, CYC has played host to many championships for various fleets. Enclosed is an abbreviated list from the last few years:

- 2008 Etchells World Championship
- 2011 North American Challenge Cup
- 2012 Leiter Cup, Jr. Women's Singlehanded Championship
- 2012 Farr 40 Worlds
- 2013 Beneteau First 36.7 North American Championships

CYC has a volunteer Race committee of 60 individuals who help organize and run the racing for the Etchells, Shields, Vanguard and J24s that call the club home. In addition, the club's RC also contributes manpower and resources to help run the LMSRF AIII season as well as the large regional regatta such as the NOOD, MAC and VERVE CUP.

## **5. Proposed Planning Timeline**

August 2012 – October 2012

- Form an preliminary committee whose primary responsibility is to secure support from CYC by obtaining logistical dates, obtain information on resources and draft this document.

April 2013

- Formally form the 2014 NAC (North American Championship) Committee, holds the first meeting, and assigns areas of responsibilities. (Race Committee, Entertainment, Marketing & Sponsorship, Finance, Logistical Support, etc.)

April 2013 – September 2013

- Prepare Notice of Race.
- Finalize proposals from suppliers and vendors.
- Finalize commitments from sponsors.
- Enact Marketing Plan (starting at 2013 NAC-Charleston)

October 2013 – December 2014

- Based on proposals, and other information, formalize the 2014 NAC budget.
- Post Notice of Race on Class Website.
- Initiate and act on commitments from suppliers and vendors.
- Finalize listing of logistical support. (Lodging, Docking, Repair Services, etc.)
- Continue Marketing Plan

January 2014 – March 2014

- Create and finalize the race instructions.
- Continue Marketing Plan

April 2014– August 2014

- Track registrations.
- Continue Marketing Plan

Post 2014 NAC

- Post Mortem analysis of the event

## **6. Marketing Plan**

As a stand-alone event, the 2014 NAC-Chicago will be marketed using a four-phase plan. The First phase of this plan will begin at the 2013 Nationals in Charleston, where 3-4 fleet members will be attending.

## **7. Sponsorship Plan**

The Chicago YC preliminary committee has already begun the process of procuring sponsors for the event.

## **8. Preliminary Committee**

Cate Muller- CYC Member and US Melges Class Member

Augi Hernandez- US Melges Class Member and Midwest District Governor

Jay Muller- CYC Member

Don Maxwell- CYC Member and Special Regattas Committee Member

## **9. Proposed Dates**

So as not to conflict with local events within each fleet, The committee is in process of securing a date in September to host the event at Belmont Station. These dates will provide for sufficient time for transportation in the weeks prior. The event will consist of a measurement/check-in date with a skipper's meeting and cocktail hour. Racing will be had for three days with nightly après race daily awards/cocktail hour culminating in a closing Awards banquet. Sunday can be hauling out day for the racers.

## **10. Event Format**

The club would like to provide a five day event (including check-in and a practice race day).

Three days of windward/leeward course racing. We would like to run 3 to 4 races per day on the W/L course days. Since CYC would run this as a stand-alone event there will be no waiting on other classes to finish before restarting. September in Chicago makes for

some of the best sailing weather of the season, so we are confident that we will have cooperation from *up above*.

The three days of W/L course racing will determine the 2014 North American Champion.

## **12. Proposed Schedule of Events**

Day 1 - Measurement/ Check-In/ Weight-In

Day 2 – Measurement/ Check-In/ Weight-In/ Practice Race

Day 3 – W/L Course Races (3-4 Races)

Day 4 – W/L Course Races (3-4 Races)

Day 5 – W/L Course Races (2-3 Races)

## **13. Logistical Planning**

### **Charter Boats:**

People wishing to charter boats should contact Melges Boat Works.

### **Launching:**

Crane launching is available on 2 cranes at Belmont harbor. Montrose Harbor (located 1 mile north) also is available for launching and haul out.

### **Storage:**

Trailer storage will be available in the South Belmont lot, this is a pay lot, but discussions are in progress with the city of Chicago to secure storage here (trailers have been stored here for many events). Overnight security will be hired to insure trailer boxes etc. are safe.

### **Parking:**

Parking will be available in the Belmont lot and the south lot, with the lots having an \$11/day rate. Since the City of Chicago owns all the parking lots at Belmont, this is a fixed cost that would be very difficult to negotiate.

### **Docking:**

Docking will be made available next to the Belmont Station and within Belmont Harbor. Having all the boats in one location après regatta will assist in helping the fleet build camaraderie. All the weeks' events will be held at the Belmont Station providing a single location for boats to commune.

### **Sail makers:**

Three major Sail makers (Doyle, North, and UK-Halsey) have lofts within 20 minutes of the Belmont Harbor location. As they have done with other major regattas, the sail makers will have overnight repair services provided for all attendees.

### **Boating Supplies:**

West Marine is located just 15 minutes from the harbor on North Avenue. They provide this service for the NOOD and Verve Cup Regattas in Chicago. Crowley's Lakeside also has a full rigging department. Line Honors Clothing Supplies and other retailers will be made available on site for the event.

### **Lodging:**

As a host to major conventions Chicago has over 15,000 hotel rooms available. Discussions are under way with a hotel sponsor for official 2014 Event rates.

### **The City of Chicago, Illinois:**

Chicago is a major metropolitan area. It hosts a robust nightlife and has over 5000 restaurants and pubs. Culturally, the city is home to the Chicago Art Institute, Museum of Science and Industry, Field Museum of Natural History and Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art (to name just a few). Let us not mention shopping (to the skipper's dismay), as Michigan Avenue is home to some of the nation's largest retailers. The city is home to an endless list of activities and venues for family and crew to make 2014 a destination trip for all!

## **14. In closing**

Chicago "The Windy City" is an excellent sailing backdrop for an event of this caliber. As a major metropolitan city, the list of activities for accompanying family members and crew is endless. The Chicago Yacht Club has the experience, resources and knowledge to host an event of this magnitude.

**Chicago Yacht Club  
Special Regatta Budget Worksheet  
Preliminary Budget Based on 40 Boats Attending**

**Income:**

Entry Fees	\$695/Boat (40 Boats = \$27,800)
Sponsorship	\$15,000 + \$5,000 in kind goods
Misc Sales	_____
 Total	 \$42,800 + \$5,000 in kind goods

**Expenses:**

Awards (winners & daily's)	\$2,000
“Free Pour”	\$5,000
Food and Beverage	\$10,000
Bow Stickers	\$1,000
Programs (printing)	\$1,000
Lodging expenses for judges and or PRO	\$3,000
Shirts for RC and Volunteers + Sailors	\$2,500
RC meals, fuel, fees	\$1,000/ Day = \$4,000 total
Dockage expense	_____
Parking expense (Security @ night)	\$50/Day =\$200 total
Other expenses	\$3,000
Contingency	_____
 Total	 \$31,700

**Net profit** \$11,100