

Canadian Melges 24 Class Association



2016 Annual Report

The Canadian Melges 24 class enjoyed a great year in 2016. The class membership rebounded to 24 full members, up 8 from 2015's slump of 16, and 6 associate members.

In the Eastern District, centered in the province of Ontario (ON), they had a great summer of Melges 24 sailing fueled by fantastic weather.

The season started with 28 boats at Muskegon (Michigan) YC's hotly contested "Midwest Spring Championship". The top Canadian in that cold and windy May slugfest was Peter Hansen's BYRR, from Thunder Bay. BYRR finished 12th overall ahead of Dan Berezin's SURPRISE in 16th place.

The next regatta saw the welcome change to glorious warm summer weather that held until mid-September. Five local Melges 24s attended the Ashbridge's Bay "Open Regatta" in Toronto. Warm temperatures and light winds made for a slow weekend on the water, but the onshore party was top notch. The event was won by Dan Berezin with Uri Saks and Alex Praskurnin in second and third.

The next event was the Bayview (Michigan) YC's "One Design Regatta" on the first June weekend. Beautiful weather, and 12 Melges 24s racing, made for a great 3 day event. Top Canadian was Richard Reid's ZINGARA in second, with Brucey Ayres MONSOON in first.

End of July was the Youngstown (New York) YC's "Can-Am Challenge", and 7 Melges 24s (only one American boat!) showed up for a beautiful weekend of sailing. That event was won by Dan Berezin with Mike Gozzard's RUSH in second place.

On the downside, Ontario is down two boats after Dave Black and Marc Steyn sold theirs to Michigan sailors. And two more (Andrei's 004 and Allan Stoke's 123) are for sale in Toronto.

Again, thanks to the weather gods that gave us the chance to put away our foul weather gear all summer!

Looking ahead, National Yacht Club (Toronto) has been nominated and is prepping for the 2017 Canadian Nationals. Some local boats are heading to Lake Geneva for the US Nationals, and probably most local boats are planning on heading to Miami for the Worlds. See you there!

Out on the 'left coast' the Western District fleet enjoyed a summer of local regattas. The young 'Wet Coast Sailing Team' with Fraser McMillan helming SUNNYVALE dominated the Vancouver Island regatta circuit and showed with certainty that practice pays. The highlight of the season in the west was the well-attended Canadian National Championship hosted in BC's interior wine country by the Kelowna Yacht Club. The event was won by Kevin Welch's MIKEY from Anacortes USA with second overall and top Corinthian going to the SUNNYVALE team. Ontario was well represented by defending champion Richard Reid's ZINGARA who made the trip out west a success with a strong 3rd place finish.