



**Columbia  
Gorge  
Racing  
Association**

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709 N. Columbia Boulevard  
PORTLAND, OR 97217  
WWW.CGRA.ORG

Brian Hutchinson  
US Melges 24 Class Association

September 8, 2014

Dear Brian,

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The Columbia Gorge Racing Association is pleased to respond to your inquiry about our interest in hosting the 2017 Melges 24 North American Championship. Following a very successful 2015 US Championship, where we hosted 36 boats over the course of the 4+ day event, we are excited by the opportunity to showcase one of the most spectacular sailing venues in the world for an even broader range of competitors. The following template highlights CGRA's capabilities and if it is attractive to the class, I would be happy to provide a more detailed proposal for your consideration.

CGRA was founded 20 years ago and during that time has hosted over 60 championship events in the Gorge. Those include the 2009 International Moth Class World Championship, 2011 ICSA College National Championship, 2012 Laser North American Championship, 2012 US SAILING Youth Championship and 2013 Tasar World Championship, 2014 Laser Masters North American Championship and 2015 Melges 24 US National Championship. In addition, CGRA has been awarded the 2016 Laser North American Championships where 175-200 boats are expected for a 5 day event in July 2016.

Our ability to be consistently awarded top championship events is based upon our proven track record of providing "turn key" events with expert race management, professional shore support, experienced safety and mark boat crews and a group of volunteers dedicated to providing the competitors' and their families with an unforgettable experience during their visit to the Gorge. The skill of this team is aided by the stunning natural beauty of the site and complimented by the consistently challenging summer thermal breezes that average between 15 and 30 knots on most summer days.

CGRA, if selected to host the North American Championship, will provide an experienced regatta chair that is responsible for all aspects of the event and will work closely with the class representatives to ensure success. In 2015, this process began in September 2014 and culminated in a 10 day event that included regattas on two weekends plus a mid week speed clinic and practice racing for the teams. Jay McRostie led this effort for CGRA and will be part of the team planning the 2017 Championship.

Of critical importance is the race management team. For 2017, CGRA has a commitment from John Abel to officiate the event. John is a PRO based in Victoria, British Columbia, who has applied for International certification and has extensive experience managing races around the world. In 2016 his schedule includes the Laser Radial World Championships, Kiel Week, Swiftsure and the Melges 24 Canadian Championship. CGRA also has a long standing relationship with experienced international judges like Dick Rose, who has participated in multiple events at CGRA over the past several years. Dick chairs the ISAF Racing Rules committee and brings 30+ years of judging experience to this team.

A couple of significant differences between CGRA and the other championship venues around the world are these:

- CGRA's mission is to foster the sport of competitive sailing in the Columbia River Gorge by conducting regional, national, and international regattas and providing quality training opportunities for aspiring competitors. We are not a yacht club. This is all we do.
- Our facilities can best be described as spartan and interestingly, that is why people come to the Gorge. We provide world class racing in one of the most spectacular settings in the world, but we are based in a beautiful public marine park with only a modest race office adjacent to the Cascade Locks Marina. We are either on the water, on the beach or in the park for meals and recreation during the events.

The estimated 60 boat fleet will be accommodated between the Cascade Locks Marine Park marina and the Port of Stevenson facility across the river in Washington. The 2015 US Championship demonstrated that we can safely and effectively host an event of this size in these facilities.

The planned 5 day event, including 4 days of racing preceded by 1 day of registration and practice, 2 formal meals, all of the race officials, signal and safety boats and related racing equipment, volunteers and a professional photographer would drive an entry fee of approximately \$500/boat. This could be offset through successful sponsorships such as those arranged by the class representatives for the 2015 National Championship. This budget would be refined in collaboration with the Class Association as the event is being planned.

In summary, CGRA has the unparalleled experience and an unbeatable venue that would make the 2017 Melges 24 North American Championship an exceptional event. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and to refine and complete a proposal to meet the needs of the Melges 24 Class Association.

Sincerely,

Dave Jursik  
Treasurer

*The Columbia Gorge Racing Association is a registered 501(c)3 organization (tax ID #93-1279631). Your donation is fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this letter as documentation of your donation for tax purposes.*