

## **USMCA 2015 AGM Report**

The USMCA has been busy. After a successful US Nationals last August the class discovered a great place to sail the Melges 24. Cascade Locks, The Gorge. We anticipate many future events there in the future. After US Nationals a new leadership was established for the USMCA. Continuing the momentum from the previous leadership group, special emphasis was placed on maximizing leadership participation throughout our membership. Furthermore, we encouraged membership engagement in the election of these officers and other decision making involving the class.

The USMCA's main focus has been on scheduling. We are committed to establishing a Winter Series based in Florida which will serve as "winter home" for Melges 24 boats. The 2015-16 Winter Series starts in Miami (November) then Key West (January) and back to Miami (March). There are other events in between such as the St Petersburg Nood (February). The competition will move up North to Charleston in April.

The hosting of 2016 Melges 24 Worlds in Miami will be the start not the end of this cycle in 2016. We are almost 90 boats strong registered still expecting greater than 130 entries. The Miami Invite (currently being held as I write) is serving as a dress rehearsal for this sure to be great event.

Brian Hutchinson and his committee have been making great progress toward our scheduling efforts. We have also been working with Joy and Piret in enhancing the scheduling layout on the website. Many other exciting venues are expressing interest in hosting exciting Melges 24 events in the U.S.

Our membership challenge continues to be challenged to better include boats that do not sail regular major regattas. We are exploring ways of enhancing membership value that can be extended more inclusively thru the U.S. Melges 24 community. We are receptive to whatever suggestions the International authority may have. To better engage the entry level competitor bodes well for class growth.

All in all the USMCA has been experiencing a resurgence of enthusiasm leading up to 2016 Worlds in Miami. Furthermore we are concentrating on riding this enthusiasm beyond Worlds. "Catch the Wave in Miami" is what we are hearing.

Steven Boho

USMCA President