



U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION

usmelges24.com

TO: IM24CA

FROM: USMCA Class President, Steve Boho
Class Communications, Joy Dunigan

DATE: 2017 NOVEMBER 1

RE: USMCA FLEET REPORT TO 2017 AGM

Despite 74 entries, exhilarating sailing on the ocean and a beautiful world-class city as backdrop, the 2016 Melges 24 Worlds in Miami exposed many challenges the class must address going forward. As a result criticisms were many, but going forward the challenges remain. A “post Worlds” hangover was inevitable.

How does the class maintain championship criteria, expectation and one design integrity (all very important) while keeping the sport affordable and all inclusive? The USMCA constantly plays a balancing act between East Coast and West Coast, far travelling boats and limited campaigning boats, Corinthian and professionals. All these groups have one thing in common — a love and thrill of sailing the Melges 24.

So, the USMCA membership declined from 83 full members to 55 members. The reason for this is simple. The only value a full member receives from joining the class is the privilege to compete in a major championship. Worlds 2016 was a big draw. For 2017 we had a successful Nationals (24 boats), Charleston Race Week (21 registrants) and North American Continental Championship (32 registrants). Having these major championship events on opposite coasts worked well to include as much of the country as possible. All the serious championship caliber boats were included. Unfortunately, the true growth in Melges 24 ownership is not necessarily at the championship competitor level. Our product does not offer any benefit (tangible) to the first time owner, club racer, one or two local regatta traveler. Until this changes we are unable to maintain 100+ full members in this country.

Throughout the U.S., 41 events were held, most of which are perennial events. If the USMCA, with the help and support of IM24CA, could reach these other boat owners, membership growth would be exponential. We all have the same goal: maintaining a superior one design class while supporting an affordable racing experience at many levels.

The North American Continental Championship held in Cascade Locks, OR (the Gorge) will prove to be a harbinger of success for Worlds 2018 in Victoria. The Gorge is proving to be a great perennial venue for the Melges 24.

Elections were held late summer for Executive Committee. We have been focusing our efforts for a smooth transition. Our new leadership will provide new insight, ideas and enthusiasm and hopefully will benefit from what we have learned the last two years.

Steven Boho

USM24CA Class President
USA-839 The 300