



Annual Report 2014

The 2014 year was a successful year on many fronts for the US Melges 24 Class Association. We welcomed three (3) new district governors at the beginning of 2014 to the USMCA Board and started hosting regularly monthly meetings via teleconference call that any USMCA boat owner is welcome to join. The class was comprised of 47 Full Members and 12 Partner/Driver Associate Members.

For the 2014 year the USMCA put an emphasis on grass roots revitalization and bringing the fun back into racing the Melges 24 by actively listening to our members and what it would take to get back on the race course in lieu of a very high competitive sailing market. The largest feedback we heard was to keep it simple, fun, with quality racing at an affordable price point. By focusing on building strong district schedules supported by a very successful and highly popular US National Championship in late November where the class held its Annual General Meeting.

The USMCA class is poised to have a successful 2015 schedule (already published at usmelges24.com) starting with its 2014/2015 winter in Florida (Key West, St. Petersburg, Miami) followed by strong district schedules in the Southeast, Gulf Coast, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, California and the Pacific North West which the later will host our 2015 US Nationals in early August in Cascade Locks on the Columbia River Gorge (a very popular place for big wind enthusiasts).

By focusing on this grass roots effort, the USMCA will be excited to finish the 2015 year will end with increasingly popular two regatta series at Davis Island YC as a lead up to the 2016 Worlds in Florida in early 2016 (a new venue will be announced in early January 2015—see follow up note below). We encourage any boats wanting to join us for the Worlds in 2016 to consider joining this series in October and November 2015.

Unfortunately it was not possible to find a club willing to take on the significant complexity and financial exposure associated with hosting a North Americans during 2014, and it looks likely that the same will be the case in 2015. Until the Regatta Regulations are changed to allow a more cost effective approach to hosting a North American Championship it will be difficult to find clubs willing to host these events.

*Note: The 2016 World Championships were originally scheduled to be held in conjunction with Key West Race Week. Since KWRW remains an ongoing concern year to year since the US recession it was decided between Premiere Racing and the USMCA that we would be best suited examining a more suitable location in South Florida that will allow the class sufficient time to prepare and market the event. Several potential venues in South Florida have been identified and the USMCA is actively receiving submission bids on these to review and report back to IMCA for a final decision no later the end of January 2015 such that the necessary preparations can be begin.