

2012 IMCA AGM REPORT

U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2012

EVENTS

Melges 24 racing in the United States in 2013 looks brighter than ever, with what promises to be a marquee World Championship in San Francisco and an unforgettable US Nationals in Charleston -- plus, a line-up of events strategically positioned across the Country designed to encourage large fleet numbers from Coast to Coast.

Reducing the number of sanctioned events and moving to an unified national calendar has worked well: helping focus and drive larger turnouts at higher-profile regattas and venues. The inception of the Melges 24 Florida Cup series (four linked Southeast regattas starting in late 2012 that carry through into early 2013) has also helped: encouraging more Corinthian teams to travel and have fun. Taken together, these initiatives have enabled the USMCA to successfully maintain numbers in 2012, despite the difficult economic environment.

The calendar of events in 2013 mirror those of 2012, with the exception of a big ramp-up to a highly anticipated World Championship in late September / early October. Already, the USMCA is witnessing excitement as it looks forward to Key West in January. Almost one month ahead of the early entry deadline, the Melges 24 fleet has secured 19 entries, three more than the final number in 2012 -- making it the second largest fleet registered for competition.

Bacardi Miami Sailing Week (BMSW) will once again include the Melges 24s, with an easily anticipated fleet of at least 25. BMSW will complete the 2013 Florida Cup Series (Event No. 2 will take place in St. Petersburg, and Event No. 3 will be in Naples at the Porsche Cup).

The fleet will then travel to Charleston Race Week (CRW), always a great sportboat venue. In 2012, the Sperry Top-Sider Charleston Race Week regatta also served as the U.S. Melges 24 Gold Cup. It boasted an outstanding turnout of thirty-three teams. 2013 will be huge, as the U.S. National Championship will be held in conjunction with CRW.

In 2012, the Bayview Yacht Club in Detroit, Michigan hosted the inaugural Bayview One Design Regatta (BODR). Historically the Detroit NOOD, the BODR turned out an impressive eighteen participants for three days of fun and competitive racing.

Momentum last year continued with the twentieth running of the Melges 24 U.S. National Championship, sponsored by CSR Marine and hosted by the Seattle Yacht

Club. As the USMCA's annual marquee event, thirty-four teams from across North America and abroad participated.

Concluding the Melges 24 2012 International Ranking events was the highly anticipated North American Championship, hosted by The San Francisco Yacht Club. Twenty-two of the top teams from around the World arrived on scene and experienced the awesome and epic conditions of San Francisco Bay.

The USMCA is looking forward to supporting the IMCA as it hosts the 2013 World Championship in San Francisco. The record numbers seen at the last World Championship in Torbole, will have the opportunity to enjoy big fleet racing in breathtaking conditions, hosted by one of the finest yacht clubs in the United States.

Leading up to the 2013 Worlds, the Melges 24 Class has been invited to participate in the Rolex Big Boat Series, as the Class' Pre-Worlds regatta, and anticipates developing a great relationship with Sperry Top-Sider, as title sponsor for the Worlds — all this, and the culmination of the America's Cup, will make for an amazing fourteen days in California.

As always, the USMCA remains dedicated to the amateur sailor/owner/helmsman and will continue to champion Corinthian efforts and recognition.

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