



## U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION

### Fleet Report / International Melges 24 Class Association AGM 2019

2019 was a tremendous year for the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association. We have launched multiple initiatives that have driven significant membership and participation at regattas, supported the sport of sailing, and served the interest of its class members. We have hosted multiple world-class regattas, supported local events and series, and have established strong relationships with major regatta hubs.

The USM24CA launched a new website in early February, and relaunched many of its social media channels in anticipation of the forthcoming year of racing. This website is driving significant new traffic, interest from sponsors, and appreciation from class members. This website was launched on time, on budget, and in a fiscally responsible manner.

The inaugural U.S. Melges 24 North American Ranking Series consisted of eight events, one event designated from each of its six districts which included the Nationals, the IM24CA's North American Championship, and Canadian Nationals. The North American Ranking Series of events systematically weaved its way throughout the year bringing maximum participation in all districts, encouraging top competition and the biggest fleet racing possible. Individual events and winners are:

**(1) Bacardi Invitational Regatta** (March): Bruce Ayres, *Monsoon* / Megan Ratliff, *Decorum* © : 25 teams participated at the third and final installment the 2018-19 Bacardi Winter Series

**(2) Sperry Charleston Race Week** (April): Travis Weisleder, *Lucky Dog Racing/Gill Race Team* / Megan Ratliff, *Decorum* © : 37 teams participated, hosted at the venue of the 2020 World Championship

**(3) U.S. National Championship** (May): Michael Goldfarb, *War Canoe* / Steve Suddath, *3 ½ Men* © : 35 teams participated, Hosted by Fairhope Yacht Club in Fairhope, Alabama

**(4) NYYC One Design Regatta** (June): Richard Reid, *Zingara* : Hosted by the New York Yacht Club

**(5) Columbia Gorge One Design Regatta** (July): Kevin Welch, *MiKEY* : Well attended and one of the US fleets favorite places to sail, also marked the first event on the 2019 West Coast Championship Series.

**(6) NA Championship** (August): Travis Weisleder, *Lucky Dog Racing/Gill Race Team* : 41 teams raced, 16 of which qualified for Corinthian competition, hosted by the Grand Traverse YC - a great success.

**(7) California Cup** (September): Kent Pierce, *Average White Boat* : The final event of the 2019 West Coast Championship Series

**(8) Canadian National Championship** (September): (Open/Corinthian) Roger Counihan, *Jaws* : Very well attended with a nice blend of Canadian and U.S. teams participating

Overall, 97 teams competed (23 as full Corinthians) with these results after eight events completed:

## OPEN

- (1) Kevin Welch, *MiKEY* = 135 pts.
- (2) Travis Weisleder, *Lucky Dog Racing/Gill Racing* = 132 pts.
- (3) Wes Whitmyer, *Slingshot* = 114 pts.
- (4) Richard Reid, *Zingara* = 98 pts.
- (5) Bruce Ayres, *Monsoon* = 90 pts.

## CORINTHIAN

- (1) Megan Ratliff, *Decorum* = 72 pts.
- (2) Steve Suddath, *3 and a ½ Men* = 53 pts.
- (3) Fraser McMillan, *Sunnyvale* = 47 pts.
- (4) Michael Lenkeit, *Rapscallion* = 47 pts.
- (5) Roger Counihan, *Jaws* = 45 pts.

Full Results are online at [usmelges24.com](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c11c4bd96e76fe9662cc1a3/t/5db368cbc853f67fa15cb25e/1572038860231/2019-usm24ca-nr-results-8of8.pdf) via this link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c11c4bd96e76fe9662cc1a3/t/5db368cbc853f67fa15cb25e/1572038860231/2019-usm24ca-nr-results-8of8.pdf>

In the spirit of the Melges 24 Class, the USM24CA also collaborated with the U.S. Sailing organization to take the One Design Challenge. The One Design Challenge encourages Melges 24 owners to make donations via the Class to support young aspiring one-design sailors who hope to train and compete at the Olympic level. This gives the opportunity for Melges 24 owners to help them achieve their dreams.

The USM24CA also held it's Executive Committee elections for 2020-2022. The incoming leadership is as follows:

- Megan Ratliff, President
- KC Shannon, Vice President
- Scot Zimmerman, Secretary
- George Haynie, Treasurer
- Gary Schwarting, Tech Chair

This leadership team brings significant energy and commitment to the class, and the US Class Association will continue to exhibit discipline, fiscal responsibility, and service to its members.

The Class anticipates that 2020 will be equally successful. With the forthcoming World Championship in Charleston, South Carolina, and most likely the largest Sperry Charleston Race Week event ever — the Melges 24 in the U.S.A. remains on a very strong and steady course for fleet growth and expansion.

We will further support the World Championship with a three event Miami series in the southeast region of the US, and will again host the North American Ranking Series, a West Coast Championship Series and are currently in the planning phases of launching MidWest Championship Series.

Regards,

Roger Counihan  
US Melges 24 Class President