

The Official Magazine of the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association

Volume 6 ★ Issue 3 ★ Summer | Fall 2009

www.usmelges24.com

MELGES 24 USA



2009
MELGES 24

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

October 23-31, 2009

Eastport Yacht Club

Annapolis, M.D.

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1,2,5,6 Nationals '09
1,2*,3,4 Key West '09
1,2,3,4 Annapolis NOOD '09

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On The Cover: Fast sailing at 2009 ACURA Key West Race Week. Photo by JOY Photography: JH Peterson, Joy Dunigan **Contributing Writers:** Joy Dunigan **Advertising and Sponsorship Inquiries:** Call JOY at (912) 398-5776 or via email at communications@usmelges24.com.



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Look The Part, Play The Part

Carry a winning attitude out on the water with some of the newest, coolest gear by Gill available from Coral Reef Sailing Apparel (CRSA). Most know exactly who George Cannon is — a tireless and passionate person that is knowledgeable and understanding of what a sailor needs to do well on the water. He can be seen at events with an endless amount of enthusiasm for the Melges 24. To further prove that unwavering commitment, CRSA and Gill NA have teamed up as the official apparel sponsors for the upcoming 2009 Melges 24 World Championship on October 23-31.

Don't wait until the last minute to get your team in gear. Coral Reef Sailing Apparel can embroider your sail number and boat name on the clothing as well as offer discounts for group orders and team outfitting! Visit CRSA online at www.coralreefsailing.net.



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KB 1 Racer Trouser

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KB 1 Racer Smock

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A lightweight, packable multi-purpose jacket, primarily designed for warm weather sailing. Gill's Inshore Sport Jacket will keep you dry when necessary and is highly breathable. The mesh lining keeps you cool and features lightweight stowable hood, adjustable cuffs and a zipped internal pocket.



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Live, Party and Play In Annapolis

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LIVE BY THE WATER

Exquisite accommodations and convenient to the World Championship festivities, the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront is a combination of classic style and modern luxury. It is the premiere hotel in Annapolis, providing the only source of accommodations located directly on the waterfront offering an unrivaled, centralized location. Home of Pusser's Caribbean Grille and situated on the edge of the Chesapeake Bay, the Marriott is within walking distance to local restaurants, historic attractions and the U.S. Naval Academy. Only 22 miles from Thurgood Marshall International Airport, it is an easy drive from Baltimore and Washington. All accommodations feature wireless internet access, balconies overlooking the bay, onsite fitness center, full-service business center, **free bicycles to tour the town**, concierge and much, much more! If your Melges 24 team has not secured a place to stay in Annapolis, check out the Marriott!

Be there: the Annapolis Marriott is the site of the 2009 Melges 24 World Championship Pusser's Mid-Week Rum Party scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 28!

GET YOUR PARTY ON

After a long, hard, competitive day of racing, kick back and wash down the team with a Pusser's Painkiller at the 2009 Melges 24 World Championship Mid-Week Party on Wednesday, October 28th. Pusser's Rum is hosting a fun-filled party, allowing all sailors to maximize their intake of this now famous regatta cocktail. The Pusser's Painkiller consists of rum, rum and more rum and is the signature drink at the party. After racing, look out for the Pusser's *Wipeout of the Day*. Pusser's Rum and the Melges 24 are inseparable, so don't miss out on the party of the year.





JUST PUSH PLAY...

2002 Melges 24 World Champion Andy Burdick knows what it takes to win. As one of several key individuals involved in the development and design of the Melges 24, he knows the ins and outs of this dynamic machine and a thing or two about preparation for the level of competition that awaits the fleet in Annapolis. Burdick reveals his top ten 'highly-recommended-most-commonly-requested' list of parts, products and accessories along with some tips and reminders that can help your team do well at the upcoming Worlds and 2010 Winter Series.

1. Melges 24 Sail Track End Stops

These are now a class rule. Make absolutely sure your mast and boom have these.

2. Backstay Batten

Over time these fatigue, crack or break. Be sure yours is in new condition.

3. Bow Sprit Seals

Every boat should have two of these. Double check to make sure that your seals are not cracked. These keep your boat dry.

4. McLube Hullkote

We have been using this on our boats and it has been very, very good. Perfect for your hull and deck brightwork.

5. Tapered Maffioli Spinnaker Sheets, Tack Line and Jib Sheets

These lines are really nice on your hands and run through the blocks clean. They last much longer than your standard tapered sheets. For the Worlds, I highly recommend these!

6. Rudder Pins

New bronze rudder pins are available for the Melges 24. Very cool.

7. Backstay

Check your backstay and be sure the UV has not deteriorated the integrity of the line. This should be replaced at least once a year.

8. Mesh Sheet Bags

Mesh sheet bags are always in stock and ready to ship direct to you. A good thing to have in your spare parts box as well.

9. Top and Bottom Furling Units, Carbo Blocks & Cunningham Blocks

Available online at melges.com, these items are key for smooth sailing. Checking to make sure your hardware is in great shape, it's vital to performance.

10. Melges Kevlar Gear Bag

This is perfect for storing all of your race gear and sheets.

All the above products are available online at melges.com. Feel free to call Zenda at (262) 275-1110:

Fall Savings are coming up on September 1-October 15. Take advantage of special pricing.

LAKE GENEVA

Fall Championship



OCTOBER 3-4, 2009

LAKE GENEVA YACHT CLUB • LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN

EVENT : MW SERIES NO. 5

2009 Melges 24

World Championship



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October 23-31, 2009

Eastport Yacht Club
Annapolis, MD

2009

CHARLESTON HARBOR CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 19-20

CHARLESTON YACHT CLUB • CHARLESTON, SC

EVENT : SE SERIES NO. 4

Quantum Leap

into the fast seat

with Scott Nixon

Scott Nixon of Quantum Sails has been a long-time, strong supporter of the Melges 24 in the U.S.A. In particular, has been very involved in helping build the Southeast, and Northeast fleets.

He has sailed the Melges 24 for many years and just in the last ten months, the USMCA has taken notice of his winning performances. The 2008 North American Championship, 2009 Charleston Race Week and Sail Newport Regatta are among his recent prize titles. Now, along with co-owner Terry Hutchinson, they have their sights firmly focused on doing well at the forthcoming 2009 Melges 24 World Championship, on October 23-31.

Born and raised in Southern Virginia, Nixon grew up learning to sail Sunfish and

M24*USA: Throughout your career and life-long sailing endeavors, you have had the opportunity to sail many different kinds of boats. Tell us when it was exactly that you first took notice of the Melges 24 and why you thought it was a fleet you should to be involved with?

SN: Being in Annapolis for so long and already knowing how to sail, I saw professionals like Terry Hutchinson and Chris Larson racing Melges 24s. I really wanted to be a part of that. In 2000, I started working for Quantum Sails and witnessed customers talking, so excited about purchasing and sailing the Melges 24. So, I gave it a try by first sailing in the Sail Makers Challenge with Chris Larson. I sailed for years on an FJ going downwind at only 5-10 knots. Then, to sail on the Melges 24 at 20

FJs. He attended St. Mary's College then, took a job shortly after graduation with the College of Charleston as the coach of the Women's Sailing Team. Victory was sweet when he triumphed over his old alma mater at Nationals.

He fulfilled his destiny with a professional career in the sailing industry when he joined up with the Quantum Sails team. Nine years later, Scott is still very much on top of things in the Annapolis loft and over the top about the Melges 24.

knots was an incredible thrill. Everyone's heads were turned with the speed and performance that the Melges 24 put out. In order to keep up with everyone like Terry Hutchinson, I had to go get a Melges 24.

M24*USA: Over the last couple of years we've seen you interchange positions on the boat. You've either been a helmsman or a tactician. Do you have a preference and why?

SN: It has helped me to know and do both roles for the sake of experience. The helmsman position depends on whether I've got a good tactician or not. If I feel comfortable and know the tactician is good at what he does then I'm good with just driving the boat. However if I feel uncomfortable and am weary, I like to go

for the tactician role because you are more involved in what is going on. So it varies depending on the circumstances.

M24*USA: For you, specifically what is the change in the mind set to go from a successful helmsman to knowledgeable tactician?

SN: The right crew. Which I have. This allows me to drive a lot. I love helming the Melges 24. The only thing with driving is you aren't aware of all the pieces to the puzzle like you are as tactician. As tactician, you can see and hear everything, however driving separates you from hearing and knowing all that is going on.

M24*USA: Do you have any trade secrets in the Melges 24 that you are willing to share right now?



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SN: Not quite yet. I'll save those for after the 2009 Worlds Championship.

M24*USA: Looking at the fleet and how far you have come from sailing FJs to being a winning helmsman in the Melges 24, what advice would you provide amateur teams about things they should or shouldn't be doing?

SN: At some of the regattas, I see guys spending a great deal of time in the parking lot cleaning their boats, trying to make it look good. Instead of trying to make the boat look so good, they need to be concentrating on perfecting the things that can have a huge impact on the water. Things such as smoothing the tack sail and spinnaker sail. It's the little things that can get you further up in the results. They should be concerned about getting

their kite down fast enough and perfect. If you get the little things perfected, then you can sail and move forward in the fleet. The biggest thing I think is just trying to simplify how you sail; don't try to overdo it.

The competition is getting fierce though. The level and the game is really being pushed in the Melges 24. For example, the Italian teams like *Uka Uka* have taken this fleet to a new level.

M24*USA: So, the pressure is on for you, Terry and your crew for the upcoming Worlds...

SN: Yeah... (with a laugh). Terry and I got so tired of borrowing other people's boats. So, with the help of Quantum, we were able to buy a Melges 24, get a crew together and stay together. We've got Brian Janney on the bow,

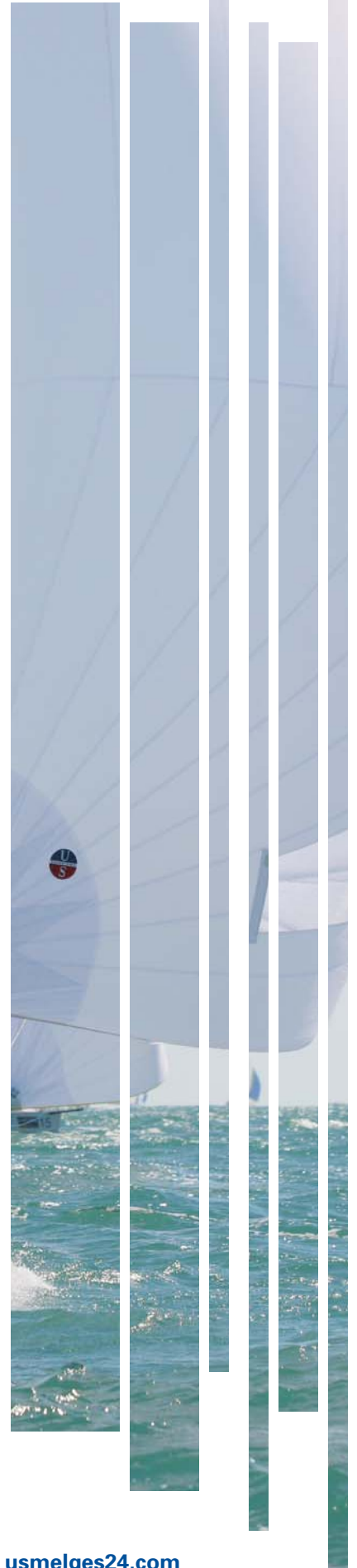
who is awesome. There's George Peet as the trimmer and Amy Ironmonger as a floater. In Charleston, we brought in one of the best teams, featuring one of the best tacticians in the world — Chris Rast. He brought a whole new style to the crew. At the Sail Newport event, we had Charlie Ogletree. Sometimes we like to shake things up by trying and learning how to perfect our strategy in the effort to be the best. We have a great crew and that is what has allowed us to succeed thus far.

Scott, thanks again for speaking with M24*USA and most importantly know that the USMCA is pulling for you as one of the US Class' top contenders for the Worlds title. Best of luck!

2010

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Rochester Yacht Club | Rochester, New York
September 17-25



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CORRECTION : James Whatmore's Goux Get Moma Is 2009 Porsche Cup of Naples Champion

Event 4: SE (2) Porsche Cup of Naples

Winner: James Clifford Whatmore III

In the last issue, it was misprinted that Gary Schwarting on *USA-622 Obsession* was the winner of the 2009 Porsche Cup, whereas in fact the top award goes to James Whatmore's *USA-656 Goux Get Moma*!

The competition was intense at the sunny Tampa, Florida venue as Whatmore won a three-way tie breaker against Schwarting's *Obsession* and Jeff Duval on *USA-348 Doc Holliday*. It doesn't get any better than this!



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2009-2011 U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2009 NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVENTS

9/5 - 9/7	SLAM [NE] CBYRA Annapolis Race Week	Annapolis, MD	Bill Carleton • m24tiburon@gmail.com
10/3 - 10/4	SLAM [MW] Lake Geneva Fall Championship	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • andy@melges.com
10/23 - 10/31	2009 Melges 24 World Championship	Annapolis, MD	Liz Filter • emfilter@verizon.net
11/21 - 11/22	SLAM [SE] Melges 24 Atlantic Coast Championship	Tampa, FL	George Haynie • ghaynie@tampabay.rr.com

2009 REGATTAS

8/22 - 8/23	SLAM [MW] Gold Cup Regatta	Traverse City, MI	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
8/29	Connecticut Leukemia Cup Regatta	Westbrook, CT	Nick Lavieri • nick.lavieri@kaman.com
9/5 - 9/6	Red Fox Regatta	Charlevoix, MI	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
9/18 - 9/20	SLAM [WC] San Francisco Race Week	San Francisco, CA	Neal Ruxton • nealruxton@jamjam.com
9/19 - 9/20	SLAM [SE] Charleston Harbor Challenge	Charleston, SC	Steve Kopf • skopf@peventuresllc.com
9/19 - 9/20	Star & Bar Regatta	Seattle, WA	Dave Brede • davebrede@zaaz.com
9/26 - 9/27	SLAM [GC] George Griffith Memorial Regatta	Dallas, TX	Karen Rosenbaum • karosenbaum@yahoo.com
10/10	SLAM [NE] Columbus Day Regatta	Westbrook, CT	JC Raby • jcr@bostonmeridian.com
10/10 - 10/11	SLAM [PNW] Puget Sound Sailing Championships (PSSC) ..	Seattle, WA	Dave Brede • davebrede@zaaz.com
10/10 - 10/11	OI' Man Of The Sea	Ft. Worth, TX	Mark Smith • mark@verticaldatacom.com
10/10 - 10/11	Melges 24 One Design Regatta	Westbrook, CT	Nick Amendola • ncamendola@comcast.net
10/23 - 10/25	SLAM [PNW] Melges 24 Grand Prix	Seattle, WA	Dave Brede • davebrede@zaaz.com

2010 REGATTAS

1/18 - 1/22	Key West 2010 presented by Nautica	Key West, FL	Premiere Racing, Inc. • kwinfo@premiere-racing.com
2/4 - 2/7	Charlotte Harbor Regatta	Charlotte Harbor, FL	Brian Gleason • gleason@sun-herald.com
4/7 - 4/11	Charleston Race Week	Charleston, SC	CORA • info@charlestonraceweek.com
5/12 - 5/15	2010 Texas Gulf Coast Championship	Corpus Christi, TX	Teri Ficken • ficken78374@aol.com
9/17 - 9/25	2010 North American Championship	Rochester, NY	Peter Cucci • peter.cucci@xerox.com

2011 REGATTAS

5/11 - 5/21	Melges 24 World Championship	Corpus Christi, TX	Teri Ficken • ficken78374@aol.com
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2009 HALL OF FAME

Key West Race Week*	Lorenzo Bressani/Lorenzo Santini (ITA)	Annapolis NOOD*	Lorenzo Bressani/Lorenzo Santini (ITA)
St. Petersburg NOOD*	Dave Ullman (USA)	Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD*	Alan Field (USA)
Charleston Race Week*	Scott Nixon (USA)	Melges 24 U.S. National Championship*	Brian Porter (USA)
Pacific Coast Championship Seattle NOOD*	Dan Kaseler (USA)	Sail Newport Regatta*	Scott Nixon (USA)
Sperry Top-Sider Detroit NOOD*	Alan Field (USA)	2009 Heart Cup	Sean Scarborough (USA)

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2008

Corinthian World Champion
US National Corinthian Champion
North American Champion
US Atlantic Coast Champion
Norwegian Champion
Nordic Circuit Champion
Charleston Race Week Champion
NE & SE District Circuit Champion

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