

Report of the PC Regional Officer for the Americas

By Ronald Watts

As in previous years, the major centres of radio-sailing in the Americas in 2002 have been the United States, Canada, Argentina and Brazil.

The United States

The United States continues to be by far the largest centre for radio-sailing in the Americas. The American Model Yachting Association (AMYA) now has over 2500 members and continues to publish its excellent quarterly, *Model Yachting*, averaging 60 pages per issue, with articles on AMYA news, reports from class secretaries, reports on national and regional regattas, and articles on racing and construction. As reported in *Model Yachting*, the largest classes in 2002 (2001 in brackets) were the Soling One-Metre 611 (458), the East Coast 12 Metre 325 (282) and the Marblehead 315 (323). The Marbleheads continue to be registered under the US Marblehead Class Regulations rather than the International Marblehead Class Regulations. In two International Classes the registration in 2002 (2001 in brackets) was IOM 115 (79), a substantial increase, and the 10 Rater 23 (23). The latter is just surviving but showing improvement under a new class secretary. The A Class was decertified by the AMYA two years ago for insufficient owners (i.e. under 20 registered) and is now including in the Vintage group. At the American Class Championship Regattas (ACCR) in 2002 in the Marblehead Class there were 11 competitors, and in the IOM Class 32 competitors. In the latter, held in Sugar Land, Texas, on 19-21 April 2002, a Canadian, Peter Van Rossem came first followed closely by John Elmaleh. The AMYA as an organization is heavily in support of the development of distinct International Class Associations and of the clarification of the current RSD relationship to the ISAF. It has also expressed concern at the predominance of European representation on the Permanent Committee and has therefore urged less reliance upon face-to-face meetings and greater reliance upon email meetings in order to encourage a wider global participation.

Canada

Membership in the Canadian Radio Yachting Association (CRYA) in 2002 held largely steady in 2002 with a total membership of 175. Of these the largest concentration was in Ontario with 124 members, the major strongholds being in Toronto, Kingston and Windsor. The other major concentration is in British Columbia with 27 members mostly in Vancouver and Victoria. In terms of major classes, owners in 2002 were Soling One-Metre 96, IOM 59, US One-Metre 46, International Marblehead 37, 10 Rater 10, and A Class 4. Normally Canadian Championships are held in four classes: Marblehead, IOM, Soling 1-Metre, and US 1-Metre. This year, however, the Marblehead Championship scheduled for 15-16 June in Kingston was cancelled because of insufficient entries. The Soling 1-Metre Canadian Championship in Toronto on 23-4 June produced 14 entries, the IOM Canadian Championship on 21-22 September in Kingston had 23 entries (including 7 from the United States), and the Canadian US One-Metre Championship on 28-29

September in LaSalle, Ontario saw 11 competitors . In addition there was a special pre-World's IOM Regatta in Vancouver 28-29 September. This regatta and the Canadian IOM Championship Regatta in Kingston served as qualifiers for Canadian entries in the 2003 IOM World Championship in Vancouver. Peter Van Rossem of Kingston showed his mastery by winning all but one of these events – the IOM regattas in Kingston and Vancouver and the Canadian Soling Championship – in addition to winning earlier the 2002 US IOM Championship in Texas. The CRYA has continued to publish its quarterly newsletter, *Canadian Radio Yachting*, averaging 24 pages per issue, with reports on CRYA news and ISAF-RSD news, reports of regattas, reports from class secretaries, and articles on racing and construction. During the past year the CRYA website was thoroughly overhauled. The elections for senior offices are held every two years, and for the period 2003-4 those elected are Don Martin, President, Mike Gibbon, Executive Secretary and Larry Miskie, Treasurer/Registrar. Ray Davidson and Mike Gibbon continue as editors of *Canadian Radio Yachting*.

Argentina

As reported by Juan Miguel Roig, the International Secretary of the Club Argentino de Yatemodelismo, radio-sailing has continued to be active there. The number of members in 2002 was 35 an increase from 32 in the previous year. The Club has continued to produce in Spanish its annual newsletter *Buenos Amuras* (Starboard Tacks) and its latest issue (no. 39) includes reports on Argentine and international regattas, a list of local Argentine clubs, a step-by-step guide to design and assembly of an RG-65 boat, an outline of the 2001-4 Appendix E, the proposals for the IOMICA, and ISAF-RSD news noting the death of Ken Roberts. The two major classes raced continue to be the 1 Metre-ULY (the South American one design class based on the IOM but restricted to a no. 2 rig, and raced in Argentina, Brazil and Chile) and the RG 65-ULY (a South American 65cm development class sailed in both Argentina and Brazil). In the 1 Metre-ULY Class registrations in 2002 were 30, the average of boats participating in national championships was 20, and 5 new boats were registered. In the RG 65-ULY class 2002 registrations were 20, with an average participation in national championships of 14, and 10 new boats registered. In the Argentine Championship there were 25 competitors in the 1 Metre-ULY class and 17 in the RG 65-ULY class. In the South American Championships held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 12-14 October 2002, in the 1 Metre-ULY class there were 27 competitors (18 from Argentina, 5 from Brazil and 4 from Chile) and in the RG 65-ULY Class there were 15 competitors (11 from Argentina and 4 from Brazil).

Brazil

The report from Ademir Maturino Nicaretta, Executive Secretary of the Uniao Brasileira de Vela RC-UBV for 2002 is relatively brief and indicates that generally there have been no special developments during 2002. It is noted that the most popular class is the 1 Metre ULY sailed in Brazil, Argentina and Chile. It is also reported that a number of members have now started to build IOM boats. This may very well lead to some Brazilian participation in the IOM World Championship in Vancouver in June 2003.