

# Radio Sailing in the Americas, 2000

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The following is based on a report on radio sailing in the Americas presented to the ISAF-RSD Permanent Committee in January 2001..

## *United States*

The largest centre of sailing in the Americas is, of course, the United States. The American membership increased by over 30 percent during 2000 reaching a total now of over 2100. The AMYA publishes an excellent glossy quarterly (average 60 pages) with articles on AMYA news, class reports from the class secretaries, reports on national and regional regattas, and articles on construction and racing. The AMYA currently recognizes 21 classes each with 20 or more owners, each run by its own owner's class association. Most of these hold national championships and the larger classes also hold regional championships in different parts of the United States. The largest classes with over 150 owners each are the Soling One-Metre (369), Marblehead (329), US One Metre (285), EC12 (272), Victoria (228) and 36/600 (170). Among the 21 classes, the four international classes rank Marblehead (329) second, I.O.M. (51) eleventh, 10 Rater (25) seventeenth, and A has been decertified for insufficient owners (under 20). Despite the size of some of the US classes, because of the distances involved, the participation in national championships in the major classes averages about 25 (e.g. M this year was 35, IOM was 19 (including non-Americans), Soling 1-M was 25, US 1-M was 29. Given the cost of intercontinental travel to major international regattas, US participation in these has been sparse (there were none at the 2000 Marblehead World Championship and at the time of writing there will be none at the 2001 IOM World Championships). A particular problem relating to Marbleheads has been the concerns of Standley Goodwin, the American Class Secretary about applying the international rule in the United States on the grounds that the requirements for a boat to be classified an International M "are overly bureaucratic". Since so few M sailors compete off the North American continent, this has not been a major concern for most U.S. Marblehead owners. For competing in Canadian regattas where the International M. rules have been strictly applied to Canadian entries, US participants with valid US certificates have as a compromise been accepted by the CRYA. The differences have not been significant in practice in terms of actual relative performance.

## *Canada*

The next largest in the Americas in terms of the number of radio sailors is Canada. The Canadian Radio Yachting Association reached a membership of 136 paid-up members in 2000, the largest concentrations being in Ontario on the Great Lakes, and on the West Coast. On the

Great Lakes, the main classes being raced are Soling 1-Metre, Marblehead International IOM, US 1-Metre and America Cup class. On the west coast the M, EC-12, and US 1-Metre which in recent years were strong have declined somewhat, but 2000 saw a burgeoning of the IOM with over 20 new boats. Canadian class registrations of the main classes (with number of participants in the 2000 Canadian open championships in brackets) were Soling 1-Metre: 85 (20), IOM: 41 (16), International M: 34 (11), US 1-Metre: 28 (15). No championships were held for the EC-12, Star, IO R, or A Classes, indeed, the International IO R and A classes are now virtually defunct in Canada. In the America Cup Class there are about a dozen boats in Toronto and there is an annual CAN-AM challenge match racing competition between the US (Buffalo, NY) and Canada (Toronto) which was won again this year by the Canadian team of three boats, for the fourth time in a row. It is a sign of the growing vitality of the IOM class in Canada that the CRYA endorsed a proposal of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in British Columbia to host the IOM World Championship in 2003. The ISAF-RSD approved this proposal and the CRYA looks forward to hosting the IOM World Championship in Vancouver, June 7-14, 2003. In the meantime three Canadians will be competing in the IOM World Championship in Croatia, 2001. The CRYA publishes a quarterly newsletter. *Canadian Radio Yachting* averaging 24 pages per issue which includes CRYA news, ISAF-RSD news, reports of regattas and of class secretaries, and articles on racing and on construction. The CRYA also has a website which is in process of being overhauled.

### *Argentina*

The club Argentino de Yatemodelismo continues to be active, although its membership has now shrunk to 31, and the club has therefore requested reclassification of their ISAF-RSD dues from Category 3 to Category 2. This was approved at the Permanent Committee meeting in January 2001 to become effective for the 2002 dues. The club produces an informative annual newsletter (in Spanish) *Beunos Amuras* (Starboard Tacks). The December 2000 issue running to 18 pages, contained reports of international and local regattas, articles on technical matters and racing rules, book reviews, reports on ISAF-RSD sponsored international regattas, and an article by John Cleave and Jan Dejmo on the panorama of international radio sailing. The two major classes raced are the IOM and a South American class the RG-65. During 2000, in their national championships there were 23 and 13 competitors respectively, and in their open Argentinian championships there were 21 (including one from Brazil) and 12 competitors respectively.

### *Brazil*

The Uniao Brasileira de Velevisioes R/C (UBV) website indicates that three classes, the M, IOM and RG-65 are raced in Brazil. South American championships were held in Sao Paulo, Brazil 12-15 October 2000 at which there were eleven Brazilian and four Argentinian competitors in the Marblehead class, and 29 Brazilian, four Argentinian and six Chilean competitors in the IOM class. Neither Brazil nor Argentina sent competitors to the 2000 M World Championship.