

Radio Sailing in the Americas, 2001
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North America:

United States

The United States is clearly the largest center of radio-sailing in the Americas. Radio sailing continues to grow in popularity in the United States with membership in the American Model Yachting Association (AMYA) which was 2100 in 2000 growing to nearly 2500 in 2001. The AMYA continues to publish an excellent glossy quarterly (averaging 60 pages), *Model Yachting*, with articles on AMYA news, class reports from class secretaries, reports on national and regional regattas and articles on construction and racing. In recent years each issue has also featured in detail a particular class (for instance, IOM, in Issue No. 114, Winter 1999; M, in Issue No. 118, Winter 2000; Soling 1-M, in Issue No. 120, Summer 2000). The AMYA currently recognizes 21 classes each with 20 or more owners, each run by its own owners' class association. Most of these hold national championships and the larger classes also hold regional championships in different parts of the United States. In 2001 the largest classes with over 150 owners each were (bracketed figures are for 2000): Soling One-Meter 458 (389); Marblehead 323 (329); US One-Meter 288 (285); EC12 282 (272); Victoria 225 (228); CR914 173 (146); 36/600 151 (170). Among the 21 classes, the four international classes ranked in 2001 as follows: Marblehead with 323 second, IOM with a substantial increase from 51 to 79 eleventh, 10 Rater with 23 nineteenth, and the A unranked (the class was decertified a year ago for insufficient owners, i.e. under 20). Despite the size of the major classes, because of the continental distances involved, national championships in the major classes have generally attracted about 30 participants. This year both the US IOM and M championships were scheduled in October and the events of 11 September affected the number of participants in these events. The relationship of the U.S. Marblehead class to the international rule has not significantly changed from that outlined in my report for 2000, although the issue has been the subject of some discussion within the class association in the US (see *Model Yachting*, Summer 2001, Issue 124, p. 28). Regrettably there were no U.S. competitors at the IOM World Championship in Croatia in 2001.

Canada

The Canadian Radio Yachting Association grew in membership from 136 paid-up members in 2000 to 180 in 2001, an increase of 24 percent. The largest concentrations continue to be in Ontario on the Great Lakes, and on the West Coast. The main classes were (2000 numbers in brackets): Soling One-Metre 98 (85); IOM 63 (41); International Marblehead 60; US One-Meter 65. As in the United States, distance is a factor in the participation in Canadian Championships, the competitors in the four championships held during 2001 being Soling 1-M 13, IOM 30, M 10 and US 1-M 13. Of particular note was the successful hosting of the IOM 2001 Canadian Championship by the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in British Columbia which is scheduled to host the IOM World Championship in 2003. The event attracted 30 competitors from Canada and the United States and gave the RVYC useful experience in planning for 2003. Plans are underway for a pre-world's

regatta in Vancouver on the last week-end in September 2002 to enable competitors who wish to become familiar with the venue and conditions to do so, and to provide the RYCY with further experience in planning for 2003. 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 from class secretaries, and articles on racing and on construction. The CRYA also has a website. Canada was represented at the IOM World Championship in Croatia by 3 competitors.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

The Club Argentino de Yatemodelismo continues to be active. After a period of shrinkage, its membership has now stabilized (32 in 2001 compared to 31 in 2000). The club produces an informative annual newsletter in Spanish, *Beunos Anuras* (Starboard Tacks), containing reports of international and local regattas, articles on technical matters and racing rules, book reviews, and articles on international radio sailing. The December 2001 issue was no. 38. The two major classes raced are the 1 Metre/ULY (the ULY 1-Metre is a South American one-design class restricted to a no. 2 rig and raced in Argentina, Brazil and Chile) and the RG-65 (a South American 65cm development class sailed in both Argentina and Brazil). Current registration in these two classes is 30 and 20 respectively. In the national championships there were 18 and 10 competitors respectively and in the Open Argentine Championship 20 and 18. An annual Journalists' Race celebrating journalists who had provided information, news and comments on sporting activities for the mass media drew 10 competitors in the 1 Metre/ULY Class.

Brazil

By contrast with 2000, this year a report for 2001 was obtained from the Uniao Brasileira Veleiros R/C (UBV). The UBV-RC is the national association and is a member of the Brazilian Federation of Sail and Motor (FBVM). The UBV-RC encompasses 5 state associations with a total of 66 active members: The Associação de Veleiros R/C de Brasilia (8 active members), the Associação Capixaba de Nautimodelismo (5 active members), Associação Gaúcha de Veleiros R/C (15 active members), Associação Norte Catarinense de Veleiros R/C (18 active members), and Associação Paulista de Veleiros R/C (20 active members). The UBV-RC maintains a website which is linked to that of the ISAF-RSD. Three classes are raced: Marblehead with 21 boats, One-Metre/ULY with 50 boats, and RG-65 with 20 boats. Although no Brazilians competed in the IOM World Championship in Croatia in 2001, some IOM's are now under construction with a view to sailing during 2002 in training for the IOM World's in Canada in 2003. During 2001 the main events were: XXI Brazilian Marblehead Championship in Joinville, State of Santa Catarina, with 11 competitors; IX Brazilian One Metre/ULY Championship also held in Joinville, with 21 competitors, and a South American Championship for Marblehead and One Metre/ULY classes held in Sao Paulo, State of Sao Paulo, involving in all 39 boats including participants from Brazil, Argentina and Chile.