RADIO SAILING IN THE AMERICAS 2004
By Ronald L. Watts

While not marked by the excitement of 2003 with the IOM World Championship Regatta in Vancouver, 2004 has been a year of continued steady progress in radio sailing in the Americas.

In the United States, the American Model Yachting Association (AMYA) has been very active through its many classes. At the time of the most recent official report (June 30, 2004), the AMYA recognized 24 classes, and the top ten classes in terms of numbers of owners in the class (2003 figures in brackets) were: Soling IM 746 (721), Victoria 339 (367), EC 12 336 (358), US 1 Meter 293 (317), Marblehead (US) 272 (317), CR 914 201 (242), ODOM 188 (178), 36/600 153 (172), IOM 127 (130), Star 45 124 (142). Of the other International Classes the 10 Rater with 31 owners ranks 21st among the classes and the International A Class has insufficient owners to be recognized by the AMYA. Dick Rutledge has continued as President and Jack Gregny as editor of *Model Yachting*; but the usual two-yearly elections are currently under way. The usually excellent *Model Yachting* this year suffered somewhat from lateness in delivery.

The Canadian Radio Yachting Association (CRYA) has had another active year. Membership at the year-end was 226 (one more than a year ago). The most active classes have been the Soling, 1 Metre, IOM, US 1 Metre, Victoria and Mini 12 in that order. The Marblehead Class regrettably has become virtually inactive despite the registered numbers. For the International Classes, registered CRYA owners are: IOM 61, Marblehead 33, International A 4. Clearly the most competitive classes have been the Soling 1 Metre and the IOM. Elections for the term 2005-6 have been completed. The new CRYA President, succeeding Don Martin, is Lana Butler. She is accompanied on the executive by Mike Gibbon as Executive Secretary and Larry Miskie as Treasurer/Registrar, both of whom were re-elected. Ray Davidson continues to lead the editorial team for the quarterly *Canadian Radio Yachting*.

The Club Argentino de Yatemodelism (CAYM) remains active with a total membership of 36. Ricardo G. Pollono is President, Rolando Pilotto is Secretary and Robert V. Azar is Treasurer. A major development during 2004 has been the recognition of the club as the IOM National Association for Argentina and as a member of the IOM ICA World Council. Ricardo Pollona is the contact and representative on the World Council. Current registrations in the two major classes are 1 metre-ULY (the South American one design class based on the IOM) 39 (up from 33 in the previous year) and the RG-65 ULY (a South American 65 cm. development class sailed in Argentina, Brazil and Chile) 25. New boats registered in the two classes were 3 and 5. At the South American Championships held in Santiago, Chile, October 9-12, 2004, in the 1 metre ULY class there were 8 competitors from Argentina, 3 from Brazil and 23 from Chile, and in the RG-65 ULY there were 10 from Argentina and 3 each from Brazil and Chile. The average number of boats participating in the Argentinean national championship was 21 in the 1 metre ULY and 33 in the RG-65 ULY. In December 2004, issue No. 41 of *Buenos Amures*

('Starboard Tacks') was published with information and news on Argentinean and international developments.

This year again, I did not receive a report from the Uniao Brasileiro de Vila (RC-UBV), but the Argentinean report noted above did refer to Brazilian participation in the 1 Metre ULY and RG-65 ULY classes at the South American Championship; Santiago, Chile in October 2004.

Given the evidence of considerable interest in radio sailing in Chile, I would recommend that in 2005 efforts be made to encourage Chilean membership in the ISAF-RSD.

At the completion of this term, I shall not be standing for re-election. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the members of the various national associations in the Americas for their cooperation and my fellow ISAF-RSD Permanent Committee members for making my task a pleasant one.

Ronald L. Watts