



The US Sailing Center Sheboygan is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the sport of sailing. Its mission is to help people discover sailing and thrive at the sport regardless of their age, income, ability or disability. We believe that those who come to understand the fundamentals of sailing, teamwork and seamanship understand more about themselves, others and the world around them.

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For Immediate Release

## 10 international Elliott 6m teams to compete in first Buddy Melges Challenge

SHEBOYGAN, Wis., (September 9, 2009) -- Racing in the first Buddy Melges Challenge kicks off Friday, September 11 at the US Sailing Center Sheboygan. The Grade 2 women's match racing event features 10 three-person teams from around the world sailing in the newest Olympic class boat—the Elliott 6m. It is the first race outside of Europe in the new boat.

The weekend-long regatta will pit some of the top-ranked match-racing skippers in the world against each other on the waters of Lake Michigan, just off the Sheboygan harbor.

The competing skippers are:

- Sandy Hayes (USA)
- Stephanie Hazard (New Zealand)
- Liz Hjorth (USA)
- Linur Kliger (Israel)
- Kristen Lane (USA)
- Samantha Osborne (New Zealand)
- Jen Provan (Canada)
- Maegan Ruhlman (USA)
- Anne Marie Shewfelt (Canada)
- Tania Zimmerman (Peru)

The regatta will consist of one round robin with all 10 teams, an eight-team quarterfinal, a four-team semifinal and final and petit-final matches.

The regatta is named for America's Cup skipper and sailing legend Buddy Melges, who will be on hand for a trophy dedication 6 p.m. Saturday, September 12 at the Sheboygan Yacht Club. A fish boil will follow.

####

*Attention editors: We will be happy to arrange interviews with competitors and US Sailing Center Sheboygan officials. We can also offer on-the-water viewing of the racing for members of the media. Photos from the regatta will also be available free for editorial use. To arrange interviews or on-the-water viewing, please contact Rich Reichelsdorfer at 920-889-0758.*



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## BUDDY MELGES CHALLENGE

# Competitors

### Sandy Hayes (USA)



Sandy Hayes is from Scituate, Massachusetts. She took first place in the 2004, 2006 and 2008 Rolex Women's Match and first in the 2006 Match Race Brasil. She is a three-time runner-up at the Mayor's Cup (in 2005, 2007 and 2008) and in 2006 she finished third. Hayes also posted a third-place finish at the 2008 Vitória Brazil Women's Cup and a fourth place at the 2008 Troia Portugal Women's Cup.

**Crew:** Cindy Olsen, Sue Reilly

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 18

### Stephanie Hazard (New Zealand)



Stephanie Hazard was raised on stiff sailing competition found in Auckland, New Zealand. She's sailed in the Optimist, 420 and Laser Radial classes but is now competing on the boat born in her homeland: the Elliott 6m. In February she placed third in the Centre Port International Youth Match Racing Championships, an open event. She took second in the New Zealand Nations Cup Trials last September.

**Crew:** Susannah Pyatt, Miranda Powrie

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 82

### Liz Hjorth (USA)

Liz Hjorth of Marina del Rey, California, is no stranger to sailing in Sheboygan. She competed in the Northern Lights Cup in both 2008 and 2009, finishing third and sixth. In 2007 she won the Sundance Cup and Match Race 101 (open), which she also won in 2008.

**Crew:**

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 56



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BUDDY MELGES CHALLENGE

## Competitors, cont.



**Linur Kliger (Israel)**

Linur Kliger sailed on the Israeli Olympic team in 2004 in the 470 class, and since then has coached the Israeli Junior National Sailing Team in the 470, 420 and RSX windsurfer classes. She has medaled at world championships and European championships. One of her crew, Yael Peled, is an alumna of the University of Wisconsin.

**Crew:** Limor Leshem, Yael Peled

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** Unranked

**Kristin Lane (USA)**



Five years ago Kristen Lane took the helm of a sailboat for the first time in her life. She began by racing in J/105s on the windy San Francisco Bay and jumped into the Melges 24 National circuit. Kristen spends most of her sailing time in the Melges 24 class sailing against her husband Peter in their two-boat program called Team Brick House. Some of Kristen's recent accomplishments include being the first woman to win a race at the class's North American Championship.

**Crew:** Jackie Schmitz, Carla Murphy

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 72

**Samantha Osborne (New Zealand)**



Samantha Osborne started sailing at age 10, a product of New Zealand's extensive sailing program. Osborne has had her share of success including third places in the 2009 Compass Card Australian Womens Match Racing Nationals and 2008 Mayor's Cup, fourth in the 2009 New Zealand Women's Match Racing Nationals and fifth in the 2008 Rolex Osprey Match Racing Championship. The team is representing New Zealand's Match Racing Olympic Development Squad.

**Crew:** Raynor Smeal, Jenna Hansen

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 26



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BUDDY MELGES CHALLENGE

## Competitors, cont.

### Jen Provan (Canada)



Jen Provan is a 2-time Olympian, competing in the Athens Olympics in the 470 and Beijing Olympics in the Yngling. In 2008, her team placed 3rd in the Yngling Open World Championships and 10th at the 2008 Holland Regatta. Jen and her team recently placed 3rd at the Canadian Women's Match Race in Toronto.

**Crew:** Martha Henderson, Katie Abbott

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 127

### Maegan Ruhlman (USA)

Maegan Ruhlman of Cleveland, Ohio, comes to the Buddy Melges Challenge fresh off an impressive second-place finish at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club's Women's Invitational Match Racing Regatta. Earlier this year she finished second in the U.S. Match Racing Championship Area E and K Semifinal Qualifier, sailed in Sheboygan.

**Crew:**

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 140

### Tania Zimmerman (Peru)

Tania Zimmerman made her mark in the Laser Radial and Optimist classes, winning she won gold at the 2005 XV Juegos Bolivarianos, making her at the time the top-ranked Peruvian sailor. In April she sailed in the Ibero-American Match Racing Championship.

**Crew:**

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** 100

### Anne Marie Shewfelt (Canada)

Anne Marie Shewfelt, of Toronto, is coming off an 8th place at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club's Women's Invitational Match Racing Regatta. In 2001 she was awarded the Gay Lynn Memorial Trophy at the Boat U.S. Santa Maria Cup, present to the top finishing skipper sailing in the event for the first time.

**Crew:** Denise Cornell (Sheboygan, Wis.), Kim Orlebeke (Lomira, Wis.)

**Current Women's Match Racing Rank:** Unranked



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## BUDDY MELGES CHALLENGE

# Race Officials

### Principal Race Officer

Richard Reichelsdorfer

### Chief Umpire

Jeff Borland (USA)

### International Umpires

Richardo Lobato (Brazil)

Michael Butterfield (Great Britain)

Deb Schoenherr (USA)

Andy Wardle (Canada)

### Umpires

Don Makowiecki (USA)

Cliff Black (USA)

Kathy Lindgren (USA)

Peter Nielsen (USA)

Rob Rowlands (USA)



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## BUDDY MELGES CHALLENGE

# Schedule of Events

### Thursday, September 10

Registration, weigh-in, practice, race briefing and umpire meeting for competitors.

### Friday, September 11

**9 a.m.** First warning

Racing to follow

### Saturday, September 12

**9 a.m.** First warning

Racing to follow

**10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Shoreside spectator viewing at Sheboygan Yacht Club

**1-4 p.m.** On-the-water spectator viewing by reservation. Reservations can be made at the blue WIMRA tent.

**5-8 p.m.** Cocktail reception and fish boil dinner. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the blue WIMRA tent.

**6 p.m.** Dedication of the Buddy Melges Challenge trophy

### Sunday, September 13

**9 a.m.** First warning

Racing to follow

**10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Shoreside spectator viewing at Sheboygan Yacht Club

**Noon-3 p.m.** On-the-water spectator viewing by reservation. Reservations can be made at the blue WIMRA tent.

**4 p.m.** Awards and prizegiving ceremony



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## BUDDY MELGES CHALLENGE

# Regatta Format

### Stage 1 Round Robin

Each skipper sails each other skipper once. The eight highest scoring skippers qualify for Stage 2.

### Stage 2 Quarterfinal Knockout Series

Skippers are seeded according to their Round Robin finishes. The first skipper to score 3 points in each pairing shall qualify for Stage 3. The losing skippers proceed to Stage 6.

### Stage 3 Semifinal Knockout Series (sailed with Stage 6)

First skipper to score 3 points in their pairing shall qualify for Stage 5. The losing skipper proceeds to Stage 4.

### Stage 4 Petite Final Knockout Series (sailed with Stages 5, 7 and 8)

The first skipper to score 2 points in the Petit-Finals shall place third in the championship. The losing skipper shall place fourth.

### Stage 5 Final Series (sailed with Stages 4, 7 and 8)

The first skipper to score 3 points in the Finals shall be the champion. The losing skipper shall place second.

### Stage 6 Consolation Round Robin (sailed with Stage 3)

The losing skippers from Stage 2 shall sail for the opportunity to compete for fifth to eighth places. The four skippers sail a round robin.

### Stage 7 Fifth and Sixth Places (sailed with Stages 4,5 and 8)

The first skipper to score at least two points will place fifth in the regatta. The other skipper will place sixth.

### Stage 8 Seventh and Eighth Places (sailed with Stages 4,5 and 7)

The first skipper to score at least two points will place seventh in the regatta. The other skipper will place eighth.



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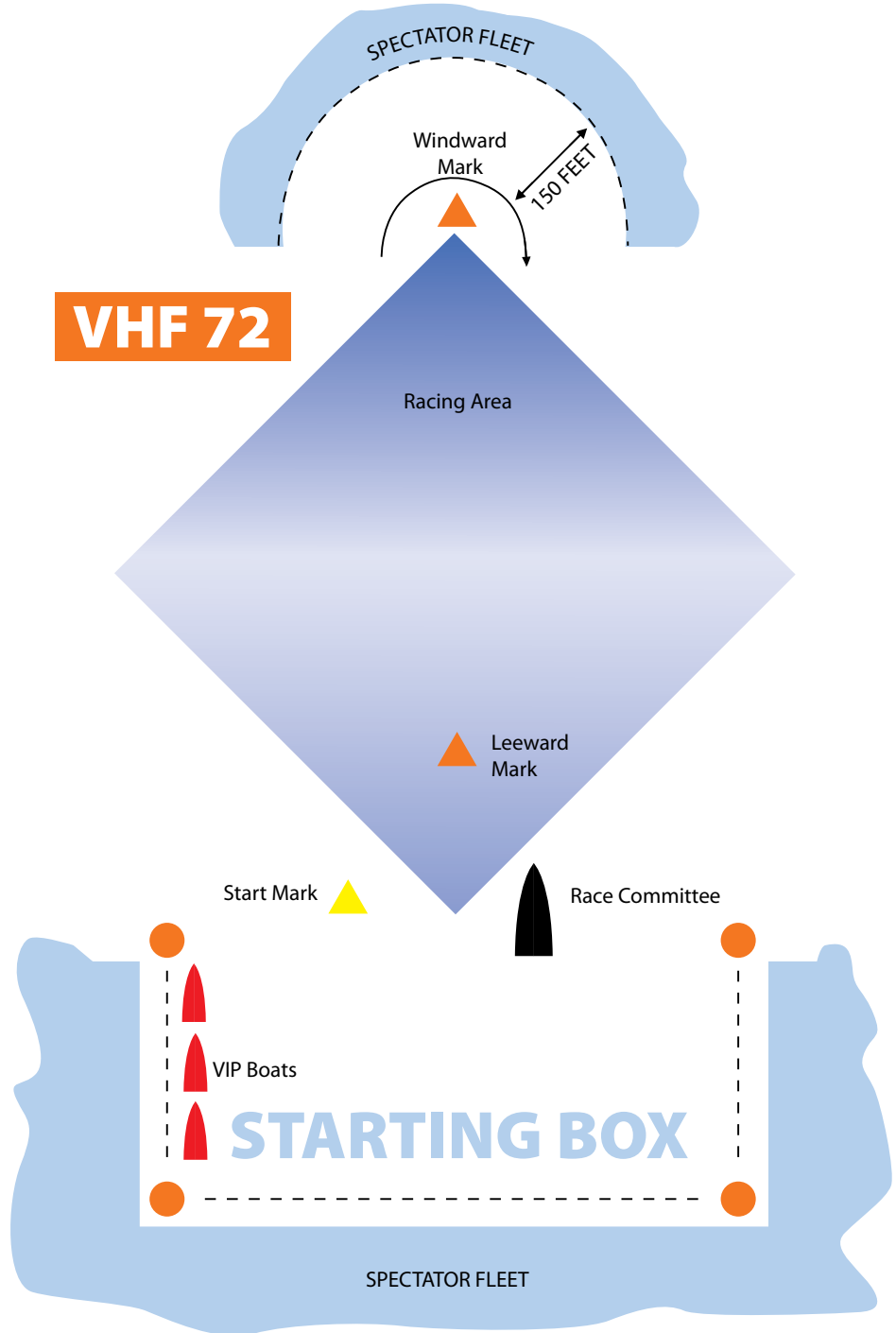
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# Match Racing 101

Match racing is two identical sailboats facing off against each other, unlike fleet racing in which several boats race. It is a one-on-one duel that puts a premium in strategy and tactics.

## The Course

The boats sail upwind to a mark, which they round to starboard and set their spinnakers to sail downwind to another mark, again rounding to starboard. They go upwind once more, and then head for the finish line.

## The Start

The start is usually the most important part of a match race, because once a boat is in front it is difficult to pass. At five minutes before the start the Race Committee boat will sound a horn and fly a flag signalling it is time for the two racing boats to enter the starting “box” from opposite ends of the starting line (between the Race Committee boat and a yellow buoy). The boats engage each other, trying to be in a better position when the starting horn sounds.

## The Race

The boat that crosses the starting line in front has an advantage because it can cover (block the wind) its competition. The trailing boat will tack to find clear air, and a tacking duel often results. If the boats were even across the line, they will work to optimize speed and use wind shifts to their advantage to gain the lead.

The boats round the mark to starboard and set their spinnakers to go downwind, and the trailing boat gains the advantage of being able to block the leader’s wind.

## Penalties

Each race is officiated by two umpires in a powerboat who follow the boats. When a team indicates by waving a yellow-and-red striped flag that they believe a foul has been committed, the umpires will indicate their ruling by flying either a green flag (no penalty), blue flag (the boat flying the blue flag is penalized) or yellow flag (the yellow-flagged boat is penalized). When a boat is penalized it must do a penalty turn (a complete circle) prior to crossing the finish line. A team carrying a penalty may try to engage its competition into getting a penalty, in which case the penalties offset each other and the slate is wiped clean. If a boat gets a second penalty before doing its first penalty turn, it must complete one penalty turn immediately.



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# Our History

Sail Sheboygan was formed as a not-for-profit organization in 2004 to promote national and international sailing competition and education. We first hosted the 2005 Lightning North Americans, with 114 volunteers contributing about 900 hours to the event.

In 2008, Sail Sheboygan was officially named a US Sailing Center, one of just four in the United States. This spring the center completed an expansive grounds project, installing a davit, floating pier with handicapped access and a secured yard for boat storage.

The center has a fleet of eight Sonar sailboats and eight Olympic class Elliott 6m sailboats, the only Elliott 6m's in the United States. It also has a complete fleet of Edgewater umpire boats, and race management boats including an dedicated race committee boat and several RIBs.

The US Sailing Center Sheboygan works closely with its partners, the Sheboygan Yacht Club and Sheboygan Youth Sailing Club, as well as the Women's International Match Racing Association, US Sailing and others. The center is run by a large group of volunteers who do everything from running races to hosting sailors at their homes and planning social events.

Among the many events the center has hosted are Area K and Area E and K match racing qualifying events, the Lake Michigan Sail Racing Federation Match Racing Championship, match racing clinics, US Sailing Team AlphaGraphics training sessions, and the center's own events, the Northern Lights Cup and the Buddy Melges Challenge.

## US Sailing Center Sheboygan officials

<b>Executive Director</b>	Richard Reichelsdorfer
<b>Board President</b>	Tom Atkins
<b>Vice President</b>	Jason Bemis
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Werner
<b>Secretary</b>	Kristine Wake
<b>Development Director</b>	Hans Graf
<b>Board member</b>	Kathy Lindgren
<b>General Council</b>	Robert Melzer, Esq.