Mexico Report

Submitted by Leopoldo Farias

This past year has been one of many challenges and rewards. As you probably all remember, we were hosts to the North American Championships back in March of 2014 It seems like so long ago now. This event qualified Mexico to the Pan American games in Toronto 2015 as well as Peru.

Mexico was host to the Central American and Caribbean Games held in the port of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico last year. It was a good event with strong prevailing winds; unfortunately we lost the silver medal on the last race of the last day. That is the sport of sailing, so unpredictable at times!

During the month of March, we had the pleasure of having Will Welles come down and give us a seminar on boat tactics, tuning and general rules of thumb to improve our competitiveness which was a great success!

This 2015, we have held most of our traditionally big events such as the Copa Scrapping, The Copa Palacio and the Jaguar/Land Rover Pedregal Izar.  We also held our National Championship at the Club Nautico Valle de Bravo (Coporito). Our numbers have dropped from previous years with a National Championship of 18 boats, down from the usual close to 30.

Mexico is very keen to what is in style, and today the J/70 is the boat in style. We have lost several of our regular crews because of this in Valle de Bravo (where the majority of sailors are located in our country).

But not all is bad news—we have a very active and growing fleet in Progreso, Yucatan on the tip of that peninsula where they have embraced our Class with a passion! There are already 9 boats there, and participation is growing quickly. We expect to have at least another 5 and possibly 10 more boats there in the very near future, making up for the finished numbers in the center of the country.

The Mexican navy continues to support our J/24 as their boat of choice. As an example of this, the representatives for our country at the NAs in Portland, Maine this year were a team from the Mexican Navy with a very strong 15th place overall and a second in the last race. We are proud to see their fleet of J/24s growing as well as their skills.

Mexico also competed in the Pan American Games at Toronto, with not the most encouraging results.

The second half of the year, we have some great races after the lull we experience during the summer due to the rain and holidays. It starts with our Independence Day Regatta and Oktoberfest at the Club Nautico Valle de Bravo, and later during the month of November we will have our Day of the Dead Regatta (Halloween north of the border) and the Revolution Day Regatta the end of the month, followed by a night race with the full moon which is always great fun! Closing our year of sailing will be the Champagne Regatta in December.

Yes, we do sail ALL YEAR, and everyone is invited to come to our little slice of paradise to join us!  We have plenty of good boats available for anyone who might be interested. Just bring your sails and join us!

Thank you for your attention and interest.