Heading to the 2017 Melges 24 Canadian Nationals in Toronto? Preparation is the key to crossing the border with a boat!

Just like racing, the key to success with crossing the border into Canada and (don't forget) back into the United States is preparation. The definitive sources of information are the Canada Border Services Agency (http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html) and US Customs and Border Protection (https://www.cbp.gov). We'll cover the high level items here, but if you have any questions you should contact either or both of the above agencies well before attempting to travel into Canada. For the sake of this discussion, we're assuming that you are US citizens and will be trailering a boat across one of the US/Canadian border crossings.

Both governments have two main areas of interest when you are traveling across the border: the vehicle-trailer-boat and the people.

Both governments are concerned that all vehicles are properly registered and carry current inspections.

Carrying the original bill of sale of the boat / trailer along with the proof of sale tax paid where applicable can be definitely helpful.

The ideal situation would be if all three (vehicle, trailer, boat) are registered to the same name and that person is you or is with you. Otherwise, there must be clear documentation that you have permission to be transporting the vehicle/trailer/boat, including the owners contact information. The other concern is that you are not buying or selling – and therefore should be paying some tax. When asked, simply state that you are traveling to a regatta in Toronto and will be returning to the US in a few days.

The documentation required for the people crossing the border is different between the US and Canada. In order to return to the US, you must have a valid passport, NEXUS, or enhanced driver's license. You can enter Canada with a birth certificate, but that will not be sufficient to allow you back into the US. If you are traveling with a minor whose parents are not present, you will also need an original Birth Certificate and a signed consent letter from the parents. Canada may also not allow individuals with a felony conviction or DUI entrance to Canada. See the websites above if there are any concerns about the admissibility of anyone in your group. The websites also document items that are prohibited going to Canada and back into the US:

- Firearms
- Drugs
- Certain food and vegetables
- Firewood

If you are leaving your boat in Canada for any reason, you will need form E29B for temporary Importation.