

Western Hemisphere & Orient National Secretaries Meeting

July 8, 2004
Cabo Frio, Brazil

WH & O General Secretary Andre Wahrlich called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. Those present included the General Secretary Wahrlich, Commodore Jiro Yamamoto, Vice Commodore Henrique Motta, Yasushi Kuwano and Mai Hanai representing Japan and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl.

Henrique Motta read the minutes from the previous NS meeting in 2002 in Alamos Bay, California, USA and the minutes were approved as printed and read.

WH & O GS report: Andre Wahrlich reported that the position is relatively new to him and he is still getting accustomed to it. He would like to see improved communication with all countries of SCIRA in the WH & O. He will prepare a calendar for the WH & O countries.

National Secretaries Reports:

Argentina: The Argentines were not present and would submit a report later.

Uruguay: Martin Dovat sent a letter and apologized for not sending more teams to the WH Championships. The Snipe and the Optimist are the strongest fleets in Uruguay. There are 15 boats and 30 members. Santiago Silveira is the National Champion and Fabini was 2nd. The country elected Martin Dovat at NS with Ricardo Ferres as Finances and Diego Stefani as Regatta Coordinator. They are placing emphasis on juniors, communication, web and sponsors. Uruguay has a ranking championship and will send teams to the WH & O and the Women's Worlds.

Chile: Henrique Motta read a written report. Chile is working hard to introduce Optimist sailors to the Snipe as well as bring older members back to the Snipe class. The Nationals were held 1 month prior with 15 boats. Cristian Noe has moved to Chile and is now coaching the sailors preparing them for the next South American Championship, which will be held in Chile. A combination of the economic conditions and work obligations precluded their best sailors from attending the WH & O. 8 Chilean boats traveled to the Argentine Nationals in Rosario.

Brazil: Henrique Motta reported that the class is improving in Brazil with new people joining. Most begin as a crew and purchase a boat within 1-2 years. 83 boats have registered for 2004 with 123 paid members. Brazil needs more juniors as skippers. Most juniors are sailing Laser Radials. There are lots of juniors crewing, but not skippering. Brazil is concerned about the south in Porto Alegre and they hope to attract more juniors. The Snipe is the same price as a Laser - \$6,000USD complete. The Nationals were held in Brasilia with 40 boats, 7 races over 1 week.

Japan: Yasushi Kuwano represented Haruo Sawamura and reported 600 registered boats with 700 paid members for 2003. Yasushi and Mai Hanai were in Cabo Frio representing the 2005 Worlds and reported that they will have 50 charter boats available for the championship. Current negotiations are underway to reduce the cost of transportation for boats and travel. The organizers will also attempt to offer more inexpensive "Japanese style" accommodations for competitors. A new airport, Central Japan will be completed prior to the Worlds. Food and parties are planned for each day. Measurement will cover 1-2 days. 2-3 races per day are scheduled with the lay day on the final day to take advantage of the Expo that will be in Aichi. Charter boats will be available for \$500USD with insurance separate. The organizers would like to know charter requests by February 2005 and they anticipate their website up by September 2004.

United States: Henrique Motta read a written report. The US has declining membership. In 2003 there were 529 boats with 696 members. Currently there are 470 boats with 612 members. The US had a dues increase and offered premium memberships in silver, gold & platinum. The US class is reorganizing with

volunteers assuming the majority of the work previously performed by Jerelyn Biehl. More people are getting involved in running the Class. The US appreciates International's patience while they attempt to repay their debt to SCIRA International. A clinic was recently held and videotaped with hopes to share with other fleets. The Quantum tuning video is being transferred to DVD. Fleet interest is being renewed and the US encouraged multi-class involvement.

Championship Bids

2005 Junior Worlds: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is interested but needs support financially. Food and lodging are not a problem but the organizers will propose to charge an entry fee to cover costs. Anticipate holding the championship I September or October of 2005.

2006 WH & O: North America may be interested

Worlds: the WH & O will propose to hold the Worlds every year.

North Americans: 2004, Jacksonville, Florida, USA
2005: Ontario, Canada

South Americans: 2005, Algarroba, Chile
2006: Mar del Plata, Argentina

Unfinished Business

It was noted from the previous WH & O meeting that it was proposed that the Women's National Champion from each WH & O country be allowed to participate in the WH & O. Since this was not brought forward last year at the World Board Meeting and after further discussion, the proposal was dropped.

Elections

Andre Wahrlich was nominated and voted to continue as General Secretary for 2 years. He will contact the other WH & O countries for a Vice Secretary nomination & ballot via e-mail.

Dues Payment: Andre Wahrlich urged each country to pay their dues on time and he will attempt to have **each country reach their quotas for the Worlds.**

Measurement: a full report will be prepared following this Championship.

Pan Am Games: ISAF has proposed a list of suggested classes for the Pan Am Organizers to consider for Regional Games and the Snipe is included on this list.

Adjournment: Andre Wahrlich called the meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.