



FEBRUARY 1997



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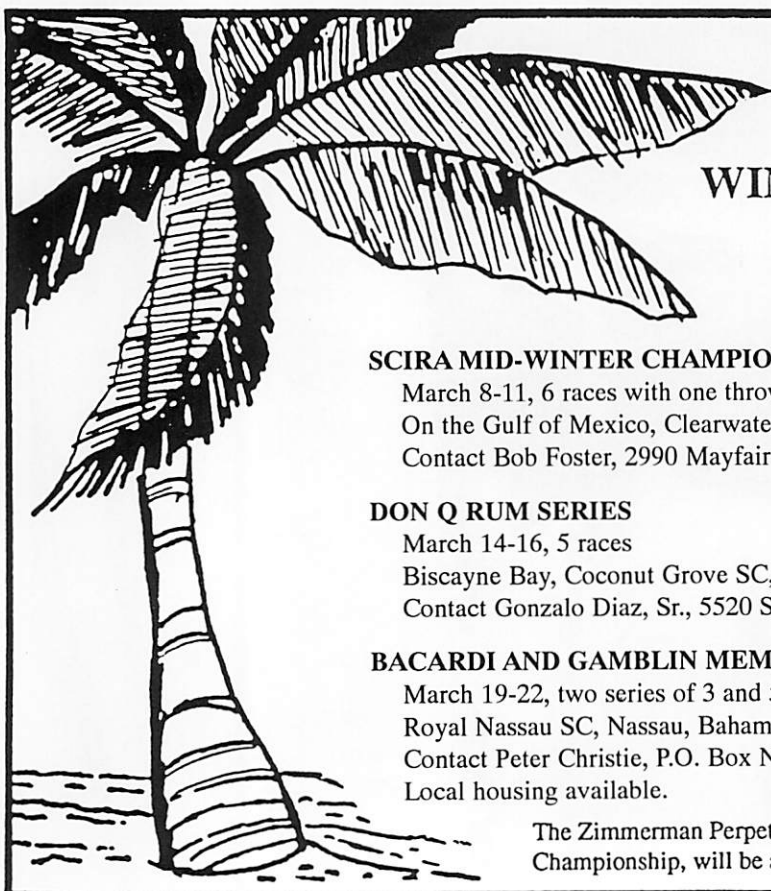
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Local housing available.

The Zimmerman Perpetual Trophy, emblematic of the Winter Circuit Championship, will be awarded at the conclusion of the Circuit in Nassau.

# The Snipe Bulletin

The Official Publication of the  
International Snipe Class



February 1997  
Volume XVI No. 2

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Jerelyn W. Biehl

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# From the Commodore

Our thanks to immediate Past Commodore Giorgio Brezich for his dedication to SCIRA. Giorgio's leadership showed us all the importance of SCIRA's international scope and the need to adapt to the future. Giorgio is an outstanding example for all of SCIRA to follow.

Why is SCIRA necessary? SCIRA provides the structure for friendly fun through competition. The two factors for success are the one design boat and the people throughout the world. SCIRA keeps the boat as a one design and maintains communication among the countries. How does SCIRA function? The Board, all volunteers, sets the course to follow. Your Executive Director, the only paid employee, reports to the Board and handles communications, marketing, finances and many other functions. The Executive Director must travel to maintain contact and must communicate from the local fleet level to the international level. SCIRA is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers in our Board and a committed director in Jerelyn.

SCIRA will be deciding on important issues during the world meetings. Our tentative schedule is as follows:

**February 1:**

**May 1:**

**July 1:**

**August 1:**

**September 13, 7AM:**

**September 16, 7AM:**

**September 18, 7AM:**

**Committee Reports Due on objectives and schedule**

**Preliminary motion in writing to publish in the Bulletin**

**Final motion to SCIRA office**

**Agenda including motions is published**

**National Secretaries meeting in San Diego**

**Board of Governors meeting in San Diego**

**Board of Governors meeting in San Diego.**

Please contact us with your ideas.

Go SNIPE fast,  
Gonzo



## Hirata Awarded ISAF Gold Medal

SCIRA Honorary Commodore Katsumi Hirata was awarded the Gold Medal by the ISAF at the November 1996 meeting in Brighton. Hirata was distinguished for his many years of contribution as a international jury member and involvement in many major international regattas.

A congratulatory dinner was held in his honor on December 3 in Tokyo with over 200 people in attendance.

At the last World Masters in Norway, Mr Hirata announced his final regatta, as his indispensable crew of Mr. Amakawa is being transferred to the Malaysia office. However, he is saying he may participate in the Japan Snipe Masters in 1997 with another crew. In 1997 he will be 87 years old. We congratulate Katsumi Hirata on his many accomplishments.

—Jiro Yamamoto

# AROUND THE SNIPE WORLD

## PARIS-CHOISY #846

SCIRAs newest fleet in France was formed, announced by National Secretary Gilles Boisaubert.

**THE COVER:** Florida's Ethan and Trudy Bixby during the Florida State Championships, which they won.

**THE COUNT:** 16 numbers were issued this month. 1 to Belgium, 1 to Brazil, 1 to US, 3 to Italy and 10 to Spain.

**NUMBERED SNIPEs:** 29193

**CHARTERED FLEETS:** 846



# World Snipe Day 1996

Established in 1994 by Commodore Jimmie Lowe, World Snipe Day has become an annual event held by fleets to boost participation, introduce the sport and Snipe to new sailors, or to have a fun day on the water.

Here are just a few of the reports sent in by last years participants. Gear up for 1997 World Snipe Day, May 4!

## Fleet 311 - Sao Paulo, Brazil

In São Paulo, Brazil, we decided to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, World Snipe Day, by inviting the local sailors of the Optimist Class to skipper a Snipe, with the owners crewing for the junior hotshots. The kids were extremely happy to have a chance of sailing a Snipe. As with all new ideas, not many of the Snipe sailors signed up for the event but just the same, 11 boats showed up on the starting line. Our first race started at 2 pm with winds from the South at about 8 knots, which was just perfect since many a crew member would probably get into trouble on tacks and jibes had the breeze been stronger. As it was the first time that the kids sailed with us, a shortened Olympic course was set up, very similar to the one the Optimists usually sail here in Brazil. As the winds were steady the first race was over just more than one hour and the second race was held right after. In the evening, after a nice snack offered by the Clube de Campo São Paulo, the winners were awarded their prizes. Everyone had a lot of fun and it was a nice experience for us all.

—Fernando Garrafa

## Fleet 256 - Barnegat Bay, New Jersey

Fleet 256 presented itself to a new yacht club that hosts multi-class fleets in an annual spring series. Invitations went out to prospective members, but competition from other 2-person boats locally thins out these prospects early.

A picture perfect day presented itself at Tom's River Yacht Club, which is hosting the 1997 US Snipe Nationals. Snipes were very big on the Tom's River and Barnegat Bay from the late 1930s well into the early '70s. Many "used to bes" saw the newer hull and deck configurations and compared those visions with Snipes of yesteryear.

We hope to make a lasting impression in this area as people see the genuine fun and friendship exhibited among class members.

—Darryl Waskow



## Fleet 330 - Atlanta, Georgia

Saturday brought us a lovely day with sun and WIND! In the AM, Don Hackbarth and Bill Hooper tuned and rigged some of the newer Snipers boats, followed by some annual weight/measure stuff. In the afternoon, we had two hotly contested races in the 5-12 knots breeze. The Irvine bros., Don Hackbarth and Scotty Cline swapped places all afternoon. Those further back enjoy no less excitement!

After the boats were put away, cocktails and a cookout followed. Dave and Barb Carrol sponsored the fleet meeting/cookout. After dinner we had a short meeting and John Muhlhausen spoke of the arrangements for the Nationals. Sunday, we had another fine day, with sun and breeze. Also, our friends from Japan sailed with us, and found the lake to be a good challenge. I think we have 12 or 13 different boats participating.

## We introduced over 20 guests to the fun of sailing Snipes

## Fleet 519 - Chubu, Japan

Under participation of 14 Snipes, a fleet regatta was executed. Wind conditions were very heavy of 8-13 miles per second. For expert skippers it was exciting conditions. However, for the new sailors it was too heavy.

This year, the Japan Nationals will be held at Kaiyo Yacht Harbour. We are expecting the send 4 teams from the fleet to the Snipe Worlds in 1997 to San Diego.

—Yasushi Kuwano  
Fleet Captain

## Photo: Sao Paulo Optimist sailors receive trophies Fleet 007 - Ft. Lauderdale/Miami, Florida

On Saturday, May 4, Lauderdale Yacht Club hosted Snipe Fleet 7's International Snipe Day Regatta. Nine boats competed in the ocean off Ft. Lauderdale in perfect, sunny, 10-15 mile per hour breezes. The winners of the series were Gonzalo Diaz, Jr. And Carlos Guevara of Miami. Carlos skippered races 2 & 4. Second were the Lauderdale Yacht Club "tag team" of Peter and Connie Commette switching with Tom and Dana Lihan. Just one point back in third place was Lauderdale Yacht Club's newcomer to the Snipe Class, Carr Moody, with Greg Enos crewing. Rounding out the closely packed top six were Gonzalo Diaz, Sr. And Juan Yanez, fourth; Dick Sadler and Shannon Ayres (switching with Peter and Connie Commette one race) fifth; and Robert Lizano and Claudia DiLaguardia, sixth. The Lauderdale Yacht Club ran a flawless series on a great day for Snipes around the world.

—Peter Commette

## Fleet 327 - Goteberg, Sweden

The annual regatta Majsnipen was as usual held the first weekend in May in Gothenburg, Sweden, thus perfectly coinciding with the World Snipe Day. Participating were 26 Snipes from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

The weather was terrible!! The first day was cold, with rain and no wind. The second day was cold, with rain and some wind. Still we managed to sail three races each day with a regatta party on Saturday. And everybody was happy with a variety of wind and current directions.

Per and Lars Jorgensen from Denmark handled the difficult conditions best, discarding a 5th as their worst race. Second came Mattias Alm (that's me!) and Fredrik Hansson only one point behind and third, one

# World Snipe Day 1996

more point behind, were Kristoffer Spone and Janett Krefting from Norway. Kristoffer and Janett brought a brand new Persson, which they unpacked and rigged on the morning of the first day. Then they came second in the first race!

As the Olympics are drawing near some might be interested in Olympic sailors in the Snipe class. Bjorn Alm (sailing with girlfriend Kristina Rook) and Johan Barne (with sister-in-law Nina) are both in a Soling with Magnus Holmberg. They are already qualified for the Olympics and are 1st on the Soling ranking (I think) and 7th (or something) on the Match racing ranking. Bjorn came 5th here while Johan was 16th.

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**We hope to make a lasting impression in this area as people see the genuine fun and friendship exhibited among class members.**

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## **Fleet 012 - San Francisco, California**

Snipe Fleet 12, S.F. Bay Area, held its Flatwater Regatta to coincide with World Snipe Day. Thirteen Snipes sailed six races at the Encinal Yacht Club under sunny skies and light to moderate airs.

We had one potential new Sniper — well new to here. Ed Martin used to sail Snipes in Miami but now makes his home here in the Bay Area.

We had two other Snipers — David & Karin Whittle who just bought one of the boats we have been actively advertising.

The venue is very good for bringing in new members. All of the racing is within sight of the clubhouse. We come in for lunch and have a chance to meet and talk with the new people.

—Vince Casalaina  
Fleet 12, Captain

## **Fleet 217 - Budworth, England**

Back in 1946, a group of sailing enthusiasts from Manchester overcame all the post-war shortages of timber and fittings to build a fleet of 12 Snipes which they started to sail on Budworth Mere. Fifty years on, the Club still prospers with the biggest fleet of Snipes (27) in the UK ranging from 10325, a golden wooden oldie through 25050, won in the 1981 raffle to 28034, recently imported from Denmark.

For our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary funday, our aim was to give friends and fellow club members who normally sail different classes the opportunity of hands-on Snipe racing experience. Fifteen owners made their boats available, acting as crews and sometimes mentors from our guests. The sailing programme was

planned to be a mix of traditional races and novelty races where competitors had to pick up bottles, burst balloons, eat sticky buns and sail backwards down the final leg.

The day itself was sunny, but with a light wind, sufficient to move the boats reasonably well but not enough to frighten nervous beginners. Our guests were welcomed by National Secretary John Love who briefly outlined the history of the Class and soon all boats were heading for the start line. By late afternoon, everyone had seen a share of the action and were ready for the evening "cook out". Two Snipes were left on the water and a match-racing competition involving eight teams was run for the entertainment of those onshore. Sadly the final between the Snipe class "champion" and the Laser 2 "champion" had to be postponed due to bad light and no wind. Meanwhile the Club bar was doing a roaring trade and "Snipe Bar Boat Racing" was in full swing. For the uninitiated, competitors have to pull a wooden model Snipe across the floor by winding in about 15 feet of string around a thin bamboo cane held behind their knees — after of course downing a pint of beer.

In terms of achieving our aims, we introduced over 20 guests to the fun of sailing Snipes — all were very appreciative and one husband and wife promptly signed up to join the fleet and have since bought 20373. As for fleet members, it was an excellent and light-hearted get-together which everyone enjoyed.

—Ted Thompson  
Fleet Captain

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**The Optimist kids were extremely happy to have a chance of sailing a Snipe.**

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## **Fleet 532 - Annapolis, Maryland**

On the second annual World Snipe Day, the Annapolis Fleet held a promotional day consisting of a fleet meeting, distribution of materials (Snipe propaganda, a crewing packet, etc), and lunch, followed by informal racing just off the point at SSA. Although the morning threatened rain, it turned into a beautiful day for sailing and showcasing the Snipe to several newcomers. A good time was had by all!

## **Fleet 656 - Santa Barbara, California**

The recently reactivated Fleet 656 (Santa Barbara/Ventura) spent World Snipe Day sailing in Santa Barbara Sailing Club's "Cinco de Mayo Regatta." The weather was perfect for the tourists, seal lions, and birds, but rather light for racing. There was good breeze the day before, the day after, and even a brisk "Sundowner" Sunday evening, but only six knots during the racing. None the less, we got

Photo: Snipe Bar Boat racing in the UK



in five exciting races with numerous lead changes. Rounding the weather mark in first was definitely bad luck, except for the fourth race. Screwing up the start on the other hand was a sure prelude to success. Go figure?

The sailing club under the direction of Matt Wilson once again did an outstanding job as regatta hosts, with BBQ, raffle, free snacks, and cheap margherita's. Not to be outdone by Keith and Caley Dodson the week before in Mission Bay, Scott Deardorff and his son Briggs in his first Snipe appearance won Sunday's 1st race. Good call on that shift Briggs. Snoopy lifejackets are fast.

—Kevin Dumain  
Fleet 656 Captain

## **Fleet 428 - Kanto, Japan**

Snipe races were held May 3,4,5 at Image Yacht Harbour in Chiba Prefecture (close to Tokyo). 12 skillful skippers participated in the race. As the term of April 29-May 6 are long holidays due to continuous national holidays and weekends in Japan, so called "garden week", almost all Snipe sailors had been in travel so only 12 boats participated in the regatta.

For 1997, we are planning to increase participation more by appealing the enjoyment of this regatta, that is, very good reception and a high level regatta.

—Yutaka Yoshida  
Race Committee

# US Nationals - Tom's River Yacht Club, New Jersey

**Juniors: August 8-10**

**Seniors: August 11-15**

Toms River Yacht Club is situated on the Toms River one mile away from the main body of Barnegat Bay on which racing will take place. Established in 1871, TRYC is a year round club which provides 1,200 feet of waterfront, three boat ramps, and two hoists.

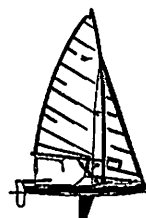
Toms River is immediately across the bay from Island Beach, the seasonal barrier island which offers amusements and rides, access to the ocean, and boardwalk fare. Temperatures in August can be expected to reach 75 to 85 degrees F. during the day, and 60 to 70 degrees F. at night. Barnegat Bay water temperatures in August will range from 65 to 70 degrees F. Winds are typically W-NW 5 to 10 mph in the morning, and S-SE 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Housing is tight, we recommend that contestants share beach house rentals. Contact Karla Griffith for housing information: 215-493-8031 as soon as possible.

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Classified ad rates: Minimum charge is \$10.00 per month. Ads are accepted on a cash basis only. Ads accepted by mail only. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

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**FOR SALE** - Cruising and Racing Snipe sails, Dacron and Polyant, starting at \$25.00. Whiskerpoles. Write for details to: Gonzalo Diaz, Sr., 5520 SW 72nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33155 or call (305)667-0492 evenings. (djf)

**MCLAUGHLIN 25044** - 3 sets of sails - 2 set of Ullman's used only twice. Cobra II mast. Trailer, white hull and white deck with gray pinstripe. \$2400 (972)952-6207 wk, (972)771-2205 hm. Texas. Jbmorgan@ti.com. (djf)

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# 1996 Japan National Championships

SCIRA Japan held the 1996 Japan National Championship November 6-10 at Kaiyo Yacht Harbor in Gamagori where the World Masters were held in 1994. 70 skippers, who passed through selection regattas in each fleet, competed for targeting the top 4 places for those entitled to compete in the World Championships in San Diego. There was a dead heat among the top level of skippers because "San Diego" was especially appealing for Japanese sailors.

Under unstable wind conditions we held six races among the scheduled seven. The series was lead by Takamura/Takeshita team who were 7<sup>th</sup> in the recent Western Hemispheres. However, they were reversed by Ida/Yamasaki team in the final race by 1.75 points. The third place team was Morita/Tsuda who was the 1996 intercollegiate champion. As the fourth, a veteran team of Chiba/Hayakawa followed. These four teams are named as the National team for the World Championship in San Diego. As the recent tendency, young teams are doing very well. This is good for the Japanese Snipe circle, however, the veteran skippers shall continue to compete hard to raise the level of Japan. I hope and highly expect young Japanese

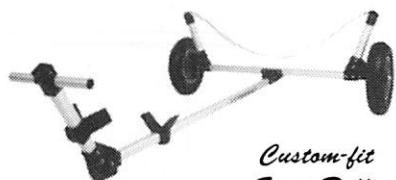


teams will get good results in the coming World Championships in San Diego.

—Jiro Yamamoto  
National Secretary

above: some of the 70 Snipes just after the start of the Japanese Nationals. Photo by Jiro Yamamoto

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## Results--Top 20 of 70 boats

1.	K. Ida/H. Yamasaki	29972	5-15-4-7-28-7	38
2.	S. Takamura/K. Takeshita	28874	1-9-10-23-16-4	39.75
3.	T. Morita/M. Tsuda	29073	23-6-33-1-12-5	46.75
4.	Y. Chiba/M. Hayakawa	29093	6-20-11-35-3-8	48
5.	T. Sugiyama/H. Kaneda	29030	22-5-13-5-15-12	50
6.	S. Matsuzaki/M. Ono	28715	2-16-32-25-9-1	52.75
7.	H. Maeda/N. Kawasaki	28548	3-41-9-10-18-13	53
8.	H. Gotoh/K. Ishibashi	29060	pms-18-15-9-4-10	56
9.	S. Ida/K. Hirayama	29077	4-27-8-8-8-48-20	67
10.	S. Shimizu/T. Matsumoto	29120	17-2-23-20-46-6	68
11.	T. Kesamaru/T. Tanaka	28758	12-26-28-6-6-18	68
12.	T. Sarasawa/A. Nakamura	28495	37-3-14-31-22-2	72
13.	T. Maruyama/S. Maruyama	28498	18-4-36-pms-1-15	73.75
14.	K. Nakamura/S. Yasuoka	28752	13-1-27-43-7-27	74.75
15.	R. Abe/M. Adachi	29065	19-39-18-28-10-3	78
16.	N. Kudara/K. Nishimura	29075	25-22-19-36-5-11	82
17.	K. Hashimoto/K., Fujiwara	28799	10-24-12-13-24-29	83
18.	K. Matsumoto/A. Oowada	28725	21-11-25-3-42-24	84
19.	T. Nishikawa/S. Taguchi	29127	34-13-24-22-11-16	86
20.	T. Ueda/T. Mutoh	28412	53-17-22-14-17-21	91

# Joe Ramel Memorial Regatta

September 21-22, 1996

The Juniors had a great race and it was followed by lunch. All of the junior teams again sailed in the regular series, all but one switched skipper and crew. James Goppert continued to skipper the week end and did quite well for a 12 year old.

The afternoon of racing was in steady and moderate winds, which was a treat for the sailors familiar with Lake Lotawana. The wind was out of the west around 8-12 mph.

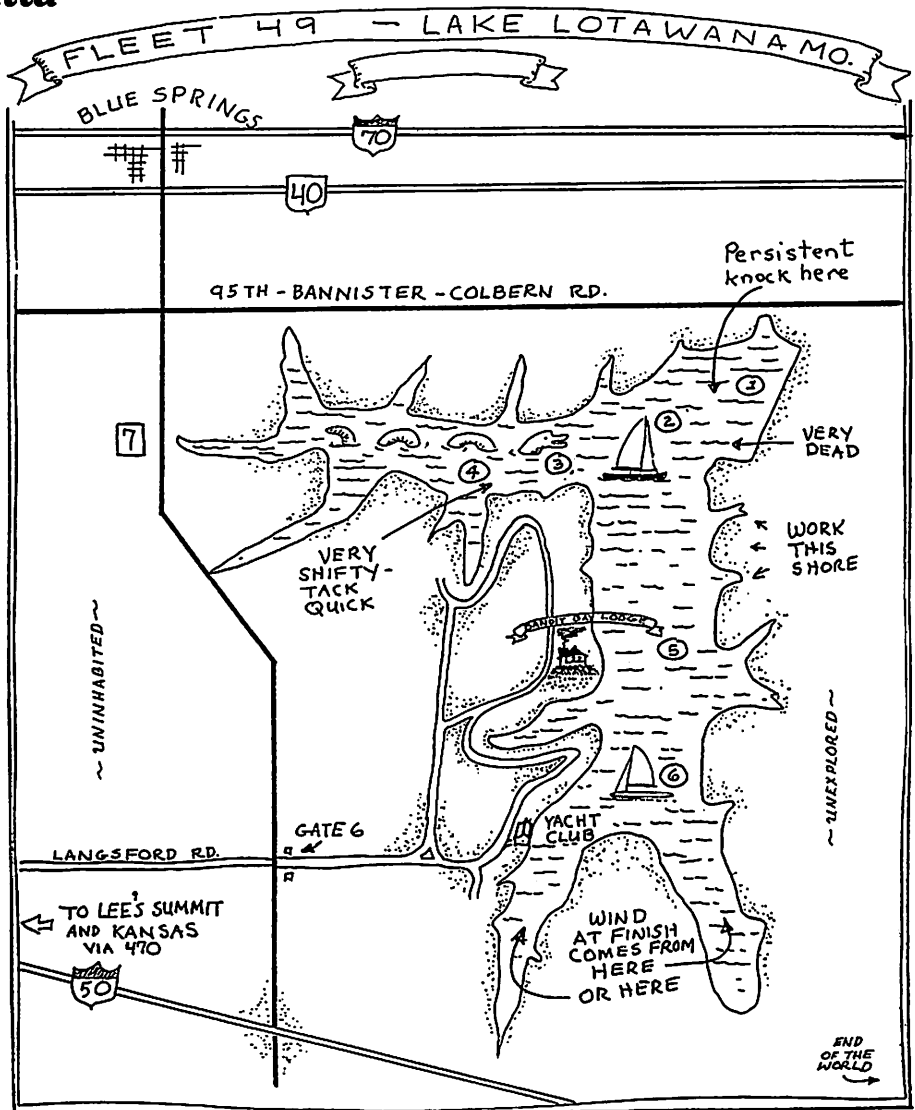
Dinner was at the club and featured a discussion on who influenced you sailing. This made for some interesting, informative and humorous entertainment. Sailors were in from Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois. And all had stories to tell, many involved two of our former SCIRA Commodores Ted Wells and Eddie Williams.

Sunday morning was another perfect sailing day and the winds came up a little to 12-15 mph and shifted to the southeast.

Fleet members and crew, Doug Goppert made the rudder and tiller models for the trophies, he spent over 100 hours on them and they were beautiful!

We were sorry to lose our former SCIRA Commodore and friend Eddie Williams this December. He will be missed at Lake Lotawana and throughout the world. He was truly one of the best!

—Rita Goppert  
Fleet Captain



## SNIPES TALES

### THE 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION

is Now Available

*Snipe Tales* is a terrific group of stories written by Snipe sailors. The book covers decades of sailing experiences. The cost is \$20.00, which includes postage and handling. Any proceeds from the book will go to help the Snipe Class and future Snipers.

Send orders with checks payable to SCIRA to:

**Buzz Levinson**  
7631 Newport Bay Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46240 USA  
(317) 253-2710

## Results

Skipper/Crew	Finishes	Total
1. James/Doug Goppert	1-2-4	6.75
2. Andy Towles/Mary Voitenko	2-1-6	8.75
3. Doug/Jennifer Day	4-5-1	9.75
4. John Sepanski/Ted Harris	3-4-3	10.00
5. Michael Lenkeit/Brooke Kelly	7-3-2	12.00
6. James/Ken Rix	6-6-9	21.00
7. Lou/Sonja Joline	10-10-5	25.00
8. Bruce Hurst/Corrien Walmer	9-9-8	26.00
9. Bob Hyland/Suzanne Steffen	8-8-13	29.00
10. Jim Hoyt/Rita Goppert	13-11-7	31.00
11. Carter Weitz/Nick Main	15-7-10	32.00
12. Ray Goppert/Lisa Joline-Goppert	5-13-14	32.00
13. Mary Ann Rix/Bill Loyd	11-12-12	35.00
14. Carl Chinnery/Joan McMillen	14-14-11	39.00
15. John/Joe Briggs	12-dns-dns	44.00
16. Terry/Katie Patterson	16-15-dsq	47.50



# Citrus Sailfest

December 7,8, 1996

Lake Monroe

Sanford, Florida

Snipers traveled from Ohio and North Carolina to attend some fun in the sun. It looked as if they might be disappointed in the sun department on Saturday, but the storm squalls cleared in time to get in one brisk race in before dark, and breezy conditions - some good racing before the parties started. The first Blender party of the weekend got underway after sailing, with Bill Buckles tending bar in the Welch's room, which as usual, had become Snipe Central. Unfortunately, our bartender was not sailing with the Snipes this year.

Day two was downright windy, and by the time the second race of the day was begun, it was excessively windy. But the RC double anchored, and ran their engine to stay in place - and we got a third race in for the regatta in very tough conditions. Most of the other fleets were upside down during the first race of the day, and beat feet for the dock before a third race could be started. Four of the Snipes stayed out for the bad stuff and had some wild rides and aching bodies when we got in; but the Blender was once again on hand and ready to cure anything that ails you! The party went on till all the trophies were awarded, and sun and the blender were getting low!



Photo above: Snipe sailors Bill & Sherry Welch, Steve Burns, Matt Bryant, Lawren Carrier and Bill Buckles at the Citrus SailFest.

## Results

Skipper/Crew	Fleet	Total
1. Chris Klotz/Sherry Welch	St. Pete	4.5
2. Matt Bryant/Lawren Carrier	St. Pete	6.75
3. Steve Burns/?	Charleston	8.00
4. Bill Welch/Linda Brehmer	St. Pete	20.00
5. Bob Foster/?	Clearwater	24.00
6. Scott Norman/?	Miami	28.00
7. Peter Ilgenfritz/?	Ohio	29.00
8. Lee King/?	Charleston	30.00
9. Tom Parks/Bonnie Robertson	St. Pete	31.00

## Major Regatta Schedule

**1997 South American Championship**  
Cordoba, Argentina  
March 21-30

**1997 US Nationals**  
Tom's River, New Jersey  
Jr. - August 8-10  
Sr. - August 11-15

**1997 North American Championship**  
Oakville, Ontario, Canada  
August 29-31

**1997 World Championship**  
San Diego, California  
September 13-19



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## Off Season Snipe Antics--Tillson Steady in SoCal "Off Season"

While most of the US Snipe world is chillin', waiting for spring, Southern California Snipe sailors continue on a slow, but steady pace. Things never really quit in this part of the country, but they do slow down. There is a variety of activity, including some sailing, to carry the fleet through the waning months of '96, the holidays, and into the New Year.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Mission Bay Yacht Club holds a local weekend multi-class regatta. The event was held December 14-15 in the protected waters of Mission Bay. While the cast varied daily due to the busy holiday season, the MBYC Hot Rum Regatta was a perfect example of why we all love So. Cal! Thirteen boats were on the line each day for a total of six races in light to moderate winds and warm, sunny conditions... not bad for the deep dark days of December. The team of Ken Redler and Julie Manzer were Day 1 leaders, but were "no-shows" on Sunday. This opened the door for the team of Alex and Giselle Camet, in Randy Lake's Persson, who overhauled Doug Hart and Jon Rogers on the last leg drifter for the Hot Rum title. The big surprise, though, was Stacey Dumain steering the Sobstad boat with Geroje Szabo as crew. Had it not been for a breakdown in the breezy opener and a late start in the second heat, Stacey might have made a serious run at the title, taking bullets against the likes of Camet, Hart, Leweck, Redler, etc! Go Girl! Skippers would be well-advised to take this experiment to heart before turning the tiller over to their crew. Experiments gone bad can create scary monsters! At any rate, when all was said and done, it was Camet, Hart, Dumain 1-2-3. In fourth was District 6 "Gov" and Worlds Co-chairman, Jerome Fournier, with super-crew Jeff Baker, followed by the team of Robb Walker and Laura Nottoli.

It is significant that the night before the regatta began was the annual Mission Bay Snipe Fleet Christmas party. This elegant event was heavily attended by Snipers old and new, including Earl and Susan Elms. Earl is arguably the greatest Snipe sailor ever. He did sneak into the Gamblin and Bacardi Regattas last year in the Bahamas with a respectable performance, but spends most of his time these days fishing commercially for lobster and swordfish, building classic hotrods and a new offshore cruising yacht. Besides Earl and the rest was Santa, as usual, distributing gifts to those who dared to sit on his lap and take a chance in the gift exchange. This is where Tillson comes in.



Apparently, the Jaegermeister went down easy causing a no-show for the regatta on Saturday morning. Rumor was that Dave was so sick, he couldn't even watch football. While this gave Dave a "goose-egg" for the Hot Rum, it was agreed that he scored major party points. Advantage Tillson!

The next event was the Snipe Fleet Golf Challenge. The 1997 edition was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual, and featured 10 foursomes of local Snipers, friends and relatives. Held January 4, the crew was off once again for some friendly competition and offseason diversion. While the PGA has their "Shark," "Tiger" and "Walrus", the local Snipe contingent has the "Tree" and the "Ducks" (aka former NA Champ Keith Dodson and former US National Champs and Commodore Doug and Jenifer DeSouza). There are three types of golfers that show for this tournament...those that golf regularly, those that golf once a year at the Snipe golf challenge, and those who have never golfed before! New golfers in '97 included Julie Manzer, Lisa Leweck, Stacey Dumain, Barbie Tillson, Steve Stewart, Craig Storms, Neil Senturia and Keith Dodson. Let's just say everyone had a great time on the course, followed by a great time at the MBYC bar for putt-offs (to settle ties) and prizes. Top golfers in the Men's Snipe Division were Bob Bowden 1<sup>st</sup>, Dave Schibler 2<sup>nd</sup>, Doug DeSouza 3<sup>rd</sup>, Neil Senturia 4<sup>th</sup>, and Dave Tillson 5<sup>th</sup>. In the Women's Division, it was Susan Bowden 1<sup>st</sup>, Jenifer DeSouza 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kristin Lawton 3<sup>rd</sup>, Alex Phillips 4<sup>th</sup>, and Lorraine Schibler 5<sup>th</sup>. The "Peoria" Handicap was topped by Lynn Sinks 1<sup>st</sup>, Chuck Sinks 2<sup>nd</sup>, Susan Ferrara 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dave Tillson 4<sup>th</sup>, and Rich Caterina 5<sup>th</sup>. Winning closest to the pin on the

*above: Hot crews, hot golfers: Barbie Anderson, Susan Bowden, Jenifer DeSouza, Laura Nottoli, Stacey Dumain, Lisa Leweck, Julie Manzer.*

18<sup>th</sup> hold, and a vintage bottle of wine, was Dave Tillson! There's that Tillson again!

The first sailing event of the year, but still sort of an "off season" affair, was the Turnbuckle Tightener at ABYC. This one day regatta was held January 12 during an unusually cruddy January day. This is typically a great month for weather in So Cal as high pressure usually locks in for some warm, sunny weather for weeks at a time. Unfortunately, this was not the case as a 12 pack of Snipers huddled by the fireplace looking for a reason to sail, despite moderate rain, light winds and a heavy ebb tide. But then, Jeff and Becky Lenhart arrived, providing all the reason they needed, and the fleet was off to bring in the 1997 racing season in cold, wet and miserable conditions. It didn't seem to bother the team of Chuck Tripp and Stacey Dumain who inaugurated the year with two bullets and a deuce to win going away. Second were the Lenharts, and third was Dave and Barbie Tillson (hey! It's that Tillson guy again!)

As we look back on another festive "off season" of fun with Fleet 495, one has to admire the diversity of big Dave. He can party, he can golf and he can sail. Dave, "you da man"! With the fleet's annual ski trip to Mammoth Mountain coming up at the end of January and the Las Vegas Regatta and casino night the first of February, Dave will have yet even more chances to show us what he's made of!

—Bob Bowden

## From the Birds Beak -- Letters to the Editor

Dear Jerelyn;

It has been a long time that I have been trying to get someone from Yachting to help me locate the original Snipe plans, this time we succeeded.

Going back many years where I worked at the Refinery Del Port at Pointe-a-Pierre in Trinidad we had formed a Snipe Class club.

I went to P-a-P in 1935 and this was formed maybe in the 1940s.

The first Snipe I had was only 1/2 share in a boat called the "Sinbad."

Several years later I saw a chance of owning my own Snipe when I was on holiday in Barbados, a Snipe called "Snipe" and the price suited my pocket, so I bought it.

The "Snipe" was the first of its (and only) kind every built, was built by a W. Teddy Hood one of Barbados best yachtsman and tennis players, and I knew he had done a good job in building her.

The first time I raced her as she was and got beaten seven times., but at the end of the season when all boats were hauled out of the water and stored for the hurricane season, I went to work on her and by the start of the season I had a finely tuned racing machine.

A series of Snipe Class races were held, usually 3 on a weekend, one Saturday morning, one Saturday evening, and one Sunday



photo: Several Snipes from the Pointe-a-Pierre fleet in Trinidad in the 1940s. Author Richard Deane in lead boat.

midday. I usually won at least 2 of the 3 races and sometimes all three, and eventually became Snipe sailing champion.

It is a great little sailboat.

I started to build a model of it, but somehow lost or misplaced the plans and am

hoping, with what time is left, to complete it.

I am enclosing the \$15.00 for the original plans and thank you. I am also enclosing a couple of photos.

Regards, yours truly,  
Richard S.W. Deane  
Lakeland, Florida

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# 34 Teams Tie for First in the 10th Annual Dead of Winter Regatta

St. Petersburg, FL

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Dead of Winter Regatta was a party; it was a beach party, several blender parties, and a New Year's Eve party. A huge high pressure area settled over the Southeastern United States creating balmy temperatures and cloudless skies. The Chamber of Commerce was tickled pink with such fabulous tourist weather. However, most of the Snipe sailors would gladly have given up a few degrees of temperature for a few knots of breeze. The competitors were greeted each morning with fog and flat water, neither of which managed to dampen their spirits. The Snipe-psyche endured and Mandatory Beach Volleyball was the order of the day. The fleet retired to Spa beach near the Pier and fought bravely in four-on-four volleyball for the daily prizes of regatta t-shirts and Snipe Fleet 801 caps. Snipers waiting their turn to play sat on the seawall cheering and gazed in amazement at the mirror-like surface of Tampa Bay. In spite of the mandatory volleyball participation announcement, some of the more serious Snipers, elected to stay at the Sailing Center to work on their boats. However, with the weatherman's prediction that we were not likely to see anything resembling wind, and with the subsequent announcement that trophies might have to be awarded on the basis of the volleyball performance, those diligent Snipers decided to abandon their boats and pound sand with the rest of us at the volleyball tournament! A few Snipers also took time out for golf, tennis, and museums, and quite a few took to rollerblades and terrorized our quiet city. But the true champions were on the beach, spitting sand and

working up blendersized thirst! The blender party began just after volleyball on Saturday and Sunday and continued until sundown, when it was time to be at the PSYC flag lowering ceremony, which signaled it was then time to go to dinner at SPYC.

On Monday, when we were done waiting for wind, it was unanimously decided not to award the trophies based on the volleyball scores, even though it was the highest quality of competition this side of the Olympics, but to save them to be awarded DOW 1997; with the engraver adding 1996/97 to each trophy - next year's winners will have actually won for two years straight! And, Fleet Captain Bill Welch, proclaimed that those who return for the next DOW volleyball tournament will receive a \$20 rebate on their entry fee. It was also decided that for DOW '97 there will not be a point penalty for splashing your Snipe, since if there is too much breeze for volleyball, we might have to sail. However, if you splash before breeze causes cancellation of the volleyball, you will definitely be penalized by sitting out the first round of blender



drinks. Keep this in mind for 1997!

The heroes of the regatta were of course those eager and amazing volleyball players. Some were more eager than amazing, and some were amazing, but not specifically in an athletic way.

—Bill & Sherry Welch  
Fleet 801

## All Tied for First Place

Dick Hand/April Franklin	23625
Tom Parks/Bonnie Roberson	24020
Craig/Mimi Beardsley	24600
Matt/Laura Bryant	25122
Gordon/Cindy Hackstaff	25172
Jerry/Bunny Kimble	25677
Ethan/Trudy Bixby	25948
Tony McCoy/Ben Givens	25951
John Smoak/Becky Killough	26109
Bob Foster/Carly Franklin	26397
John/Leslie Irvine	26398
Blaine/Adrienne McCleskey	26917
Alex Pline/Michelle Morphew	26926
John/Dawn Hagman	27027
Chris Klotz/Moni Lampe	27270
Scott/Mark Lang	27271
Mark Mendelblatt/H. Kickliter	27273
Carr Moody/Greg Enos	27364
Mike/Maggie Delaney	27444
Peter Ilgenfritz/Sherry Welch	27469
Darryl Waskow/Shell Kimble	27734
Bill Welch/Jennifer Beam	27772
Steve/Debbie Lang	28045
Doug Clark/Marci Girard	28050
Hal Gilreath/Phil Casessa	28142
Stephan/Monica Irgens	28470
Ned Jones/Kari Warren	28852
Shinichi Uchida/Ken Yochino	29003
Don Hackbarth/Dustin Kays	29014
John Sepanski/Chris Stahl	29017
Steve Burns/Lawren Carrier	29292
Bill Buckles/Chris Russick	29090
Peter/Connie Commette	29114
Woody Norwood/Janett Krefting	29200



# First Annual Crewless In St. Pete

This first edition of the St. Pete Fleet's **SINGLEHANDED SNIPE REGATTA** was sailed on a blustery New Year's Eve Day (Okay, 2 - 5 Knots is *not* blustery, but after Dead of Winter Regatta, it felt great!).

Twelve competitors lined up at the start of the first race. It was tense, as the single snipers jockeyed for position on the short but sweet line set by our imported Canadian R.C., Id & Ann Crook. Sherry Welch nailed the favored pin end start and took the early lead, but was rolled by Shinichi Uchida, our Japanese entry, just before the first weather mark. Shinichi held his lead throughout the race. Sherry gave up her second place to Matt Bryant on the second reach, but regained it on the home stretch!

Race two was delayed by a general recall - it was blatant, and couldn't be ignored, even in the spirit of the day! Woody Norwood, from Atlanta, took the second race with ease, and who knows how well he might have done in race #1, had he not insisted on racing with Janett (all the guys want to sail with Janett). He promised she wouldn't really crew, just sit there, but was determined to sail with her once, since she came all the way from Norway! Now we grant you that his score in race #1 could have been effected by Janett's added weight, but we truly believe it was a concentration thing. Scottie Lang got off the line well, and had a second place going for him, but was rolled by half the fleet just before the first mark, and never recovered. Shinichi, who did not have a concentration problem, pulled the second place for race #2, with David Mendelblatt taking third.

Race three belonged to Woody again, with Shinichi performing very consistently to claim regatta honors, and David Mendelblatt nailing second spot in the race and third in the regatta. Some paddling was observed by the R.C. in the back of the fleet in race #3 (we won't mention any names Matt) but no penalty was awarded since he couldn't pass Sherry *even paddling* and the R.C. felt sorry for him. (It was pretty close though!)

Competitors and hangers-on then retired to the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Bar for the awards presentation. Some left the Sailing Center in time to see the Wrangling Brothers Circus arrive, with a parade of elephants, giraffes, zebras, ponies, dogs and one rhinoceros parading down the street with clown escorts. A fine salute and a fitting end to another week of intense competition in St. Pete! In the bar, the Captain Bligh hopefuls were met by the real article, in true life costume! He awarded trophies, made by

Matt & Laura Bryant, from pieces of wood taken from the futtocks (look it up, Matt swears it is a real word) of the HMS BOUNTY. There was much pomp and circumstance by the Captain, much toasting of each other and the fine weather, not to mention the elephants. And at some point in the

festivities, the Champion Captain Bligh of the day, Shinichi Uchida was dressed in the true Captain Bligh's coat and hat (the breeches and shirt would never have fit anyway) and many photographs were taken to record this historical moment, posed on the SPYC front steps.



Skipper	Fleet	Boat	Finishes	Total
1. Shinichi Uchida	Japan	29003	1-2-3	5.75
2. Woody Norwood	Atlanta	29200	6-1-1	7.50
3. David Mendelblatt	St. Pete	27273	5-3-2	10.00
4. Steve Lang	St. Pete	28045	4-4-4	12.00
5. Sherry Welch	St. Pete	28687	2-6-10	18.00
6. Matt Bryant	St. Pete	25122	3-5-11	19.00
7. John Sepanski	Lake Carlyle	29017	10-7-7	24.00
8. Dick Hand	Portage Lake	23625	9-8-8	25.00
9. Ken Yoshino	Japan	27772	12-9-5	26.00
10. Tony McCoy	St. Pete	25952	7-11-9	27.00
11. Stephan/Monica Irgens	Switzerland	28470	11-12-6	29.00
12. Scotty Lang	St. Pete	27271	8-10-12	30.00

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	Ster.	14 kt
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**MARCH 8-11; MIDWINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Clearwater, Florida. Bob Foster, 2990 Mayfair Ct., Clearwater. Telephone: 813-796-3805.

**MARCH 14-16; DON Q RUM SERIES.** Miami, Florida. Gonzalo Diaz, Sr. 5520 SW 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Miami, FL 33155 Telephone: 305-667-0492.

**March 19-22; BACARDI & GAMBLIN SERIES.** Nassau, Bahamas. Peter Christie. PO Box N 1628, Nassau, Bahamas. Fax: 809-326-5642

**MARCH 23-25; JUNIOR SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP.** Club Nautico Cordoba. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**MARCH 26-29; SENIOR, MASTER, WOMENS, SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP.** Club Nautico Cordoba. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**MARCH 27-29; SOUTH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.** San Remo, Italy. Ezio Braga, SCIRA Italy. Via Bellingera 3 21052 Busto Arsizio, Italy. Tel. +331-677037; Fax: +331-620422. E Mail: BRAGA@cdc.it.

**MAY 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; COPA YCO,** Yacht Club Olivos, Argentina. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**MAY 24-25; RBOATFAIRREGATTA,** N. Tampere, Finland. Sampo Valjus. Koskitie 47 B8, FIN 90500, Oulu, Finland. Fax: +358-81-311-22-19. E mail: sampov@asava.pp.fi.

**JUNE 7-8; COLONIAL CUP.** Annapolis, Maryland. Alex Pline. 1104 Hoover St., Annapolis, MD 21403. Fax: 410-263-5246. E mail: pline@en.com.

**JUNE 7-8; R WC HELSINKI REGATTA,** SPS, Helsinki. Sampo Valjus. Koskitie 47 B8, FIN 90500, Oulu, Finland. Fax: +358-81-311-22-19. E mail: sampov@asava.pp.fi.

**JUNE 7-8; BOLDE MOTHER INTERGALACTIC,** Cuba LakeYC. Leo Murphy.

**JUNE 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22; CORBETA PATAGÓN.** Yacht Club Argentina, San Fernando. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**JUNE 20-22; GRAN PRIX DEL INTERIOR.** CVR, Rosario. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**JUNE 21-22; UK SOUTH EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP.** Maldon Yacht Club, Essex. SCIRA UK, John Love. Fax: +44-1925-764-156.

**JUNE 24-27; UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.** Broadstairs Yacht Club, Kent. SCIRA UK, John Love. Fax: +44-1925-764-156.

**JULY 4-6; 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MISSOURI VALLEY & INSA CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Lake Manawa SA/INSA. Patrick Flood.

**JULY 5-7; WC HANKO REGATTA.** HSF, Hanko. Sampo Valjus. Koskitie 47 B8, FIN 90500, Oulu, Finland. Fax: +358-81-311-22-19. E mail: sampov@asava.pp.fi.

**JULY 12-13; DISTRICT 5 CHAMPIONSHIP.** Chautauqua Yacht Club. Mick Yates, 7 Packard Garden, Lakewood, NY 14750. 716-763-8736.

**JULY 18-20; R WC FINNISH NATIONALS.** ASS, Turku. Sampo Valjus. Koskitie 47 B8, FIN 90500, Oulu, Finland. Fax: +358-81-311-22-19. E mail: sampov@asava.pp.fi.

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**JULY 26-27; BRIODY.** Newport Yacht Club. Norman Dahl.

**AUGUST 2-3; ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIP.** Annapolis, Maryland. Alex Pline. 1104 Hoover St., Annapolis, MD 21403. Fax: 410-263-5246. E mail: pline@en.com.

**AUGUST 8-10; US JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.** Tom's River Yacht Club. Tom's River, New Jersey. Darryl Waskow. Fax: 609-258-2230

**AUGUST 11-15; US SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.** Tom's River Yacht Club. Tom's River, New Jersey. Darryl Waskow. Fax: 609-258-2230

**AUGUST 9-10; OPEN BELGIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.** RYCB, Brouwershaven, Holland. Andre Callot, Lege Veldkantlaan 30, 2540 Hove, Belgium. Fax: +32-3-457-8120.

**AUGUST 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24; CAMPEONATO CVB.** CVB, San Isidro. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**AUGUST 16-17; SNIPETEAM RACING CHAMPS.** BSF, Pori, Finland. Sampo Valjus. Koskitie 47 B8, FIN 90500, Oulu, Finland. Fax: +358-81-311-22-19. E mail: sampov@asava.pp.fi.

**AUGUST 29-31; NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Id Crook, 6 John Street, Apt. 1002. Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6K 2T1. Telephone: 905-842-7949.

**SEPTEMBER 6-7; R GRANDE FINALE.** LP Lohja, Finland. Sampo Valjus. Koskitie 47 B8, FIN 90500, Oulu, Finland. Fax: +358-81-311-22-19. E mail: sampov@asava.pp.fi.

**SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; GRAN PRIX.** YCO Olivos. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**SEPTEMBER 14; SODIPA,** Antwerp, Belgium. Andre Callot, Lege Veldkantlaan 30, 2540 Hove, Belgium. Fax: +32-3-457-8120.

**SEPTEMBER 20-21; UK NORTH WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP.** Budworth, SC. Cheshire. SCIRA UK, John Love. Fax: +44-1925-764-156.

**SEPTEMBER 26-28; GRAN PRIX DEL INTERIOR.** CNSE Santiago del Estero. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**SEPTEMBER 13-19; 38<sup>TH</sup> SNIPER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.** Mission Bay Yacht Club, San Diego, California, USA. Doug DeSouza or Jerome Fournier. MBYC, 1215 El Carmel Place, San Diego, CA 92109. Fax: +619-224-6997.

**OCTOBER 4, 5, 11, 12; COPA YCO.** YCO Olivos. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**COTOBER 11-12; GRAN PRIX DEL INTERIOR.** 400 YCC, Córdoba, Argentina. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**OCTOBER 18-19; CAMPEONATO ARGENTINO POR EQUIPOS.** YCA Dársena Norte, Argentina. Johnny MacCall. Fax: +54-1-743-5249.

**OCTOBER 18-19; FRIGID DIGIT.** Annapolis, Maryland. Alex Pline. 1104 Hoover St., Annapolis, MD 21403. Fax: 410-263-5246. E mail: pline@en.com

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## Coming in the March *Bulletin*

- Officers Directory
- National Secretaries listing
- US Fleet Captain listing
- District Regatta schedule
- National Champion listing
- and much more news that you love to read!



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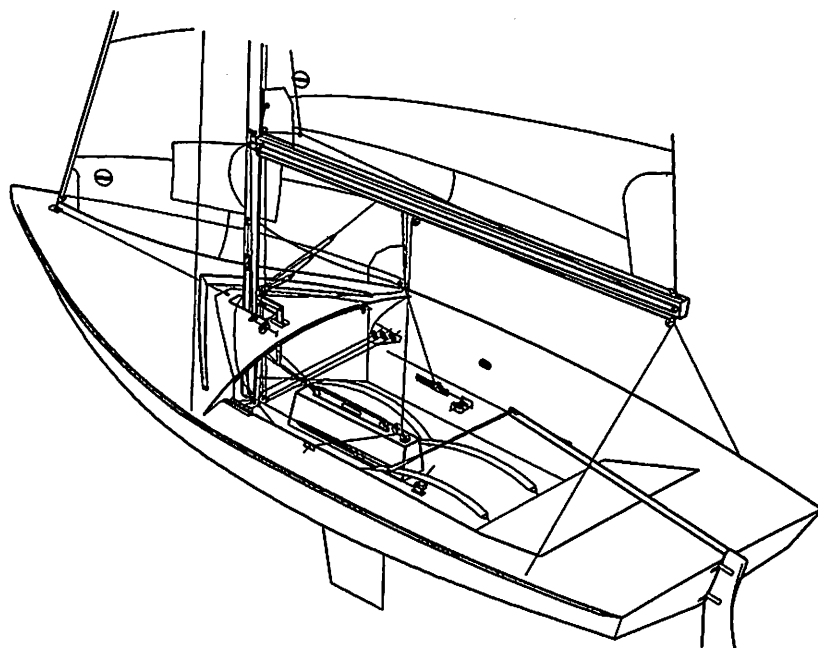
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