

JEFF DOES IT AGAIN!

Jeff Lenhart wins 1978 Snipe North American Championship at Annapolis.

The North American Championships for the Bernie Mills Memorial Trophy was first sailed in 1973 at Oakville. Don Ilite won that year. He, and every winner since, except Augie Diaz, competed this year in the 89 boat fleet at the Severn Sailing Association at Annapolis, Maryland. This was the largest event the Severn Sailing Association has hosted in its 20 year history.

By the way, Augie couldn't come but he sent his Dad (the Old Man) who finished third, and his brother, who finished sixth.

By race time Friday, after a full day of weighing and measuring on Thursday, over three hundred sails had been verified.

The late September weather in Annapolis offered a full range of conditions for the racing. The first day of racing on Friday, September 22nd, contained a frontal passage, so two races were sailed in 10-12 knots building to a gear busting third race of 25 (+in gusts).

Two experienced Snipe sailors were our Race Committee Chairmen, Dick C.

Barlett and Rob Donald, and our club International 14 fleet provided our rescue boat crews. Berta Swanson watched us for SCIRA, and Judy Barber scored.

Four fleets were used to permit manageable starts of forty-some boats. That third race really cleaned them out — less than half the competitors finished. Those who got in early were grateful for the warmth of a lee and hot coffee. By cocktail party time, all were fully operational. We eventually ran out of everything except ginger ale.

On Saturday morning, the North Easterly had subsided to 18 knots and eased all day. Two races were sailed in shifty winds bringing out the best (and worst) in sailors. The ebb current created some challenging conditions. A glance at the results quickly tells you that the top finishers were consistent in their performance and evaluation of conditions.

We had quite a few sails, hulls and rigs to see in action. Mike McLaughlin delivered several new boats, and Ron Fox had two new Phoenix in the series. You all know who's who so you can read your

own sail results. Rigs also ran the gamut, including several new Proctor sections.

As series go, we drew well too. There was a large contingent from Canada, and the Annapolis Fleet's special relationship with Bermuda showed well with five boats from the Patch. Carlos Bosch sailed — but it's unfair not to mention everyone, so ... Torlde Borgstrom came from Argentina, and we got a Coors shipment, or at least a lot of Californians. While our district was well represented, I think we had someone from every District, Atlanta and Miami fleets sent strong teams, and so did New England and the Mid West. Swansons and Levinsons seemed to be having family reunions — Commodore Bruce Colyer flew in, and Gail drove up with the boat. Dr. D. & Jane came, but the first team had to be in school. Oh well — you shoulda been here.

The Saturday night dinner at the Fleet Reserve Club — on the City Dock on the downtown Annapolis waterfront — drew a hungry, thirsty and seasoned crowd of sailors, who exercised other nautical skills — some 'til quite late I'm told.

Fortunately, perhaps, Sunday proceeded to be an extension of Saturday with the breeze continuing to die. It was clear that the Race Committee had been wise to keep that tough race Friday to give us a series. The Sunday race had to be abandoned after the first triangle could not be completed by the second fleet. Jeff and Peggy Lenhart had already won the regatta with a total of 11.7 points.

The Annapolis Snipe Fleet was pleased at the turnout for this year's North Americans. Many of our sailors have traveled the Snipe Circuit for years but we haven't hosted a major event since the 1971 Nationals. The opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality we have been shown was a terrific reward for our fleet. It has helped our fleet too. Since the N. As, a number of people in our club have expressed interest in racing Snipes, potentially adding strength to our 36 boat fleet.

Eric Purdon
Regatta Chairman
North Americans 1978

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Top 25 of 89 entries)

Boat	Skipper	Fleet or Country	Places	Points	Finish
21550	Jeff Lenhart	Mission Bay	2-1-1-3-2	11.7	1
19432	Dave Chapin	Island Bay	2-2-2-1-9	24	2
21713	Gonzalo Diaz Sr.	Miami	6-3-3-2-4	34.1	3
19059	Jerry Thompson	Lake Angelus	3-2-4-4-5	34.7	4
22851	Gregg Fisher	Newport	1-1-7-7-3	39	5
21711	Gonzalo Diaz	Miami	4-5-8-5-6	52.7	6
21758	Norm Towle	Windsor	1-3-nf-6-1	61.4	7
22875	Torkle Borgstrom	Argentina	4-9-6-5-13	65.4	8
9884	Peggy Simmons	Bermuda	7-11-2-10-15	70	9
23279	John Johns	Barron BC	5-16-13-8-7	73.7	10
15789	Steve Suddath	Jacksonville	20-17-5-9-1	74	11
23300	Bill Buckles	Cleveland	19-10-1-17-8	78	12
19267	Don Hite	Lake Angelus	15-11-5-12-7	79	13
20690	Jan Bedford	Canada	8-13-12-5-16	80	14
19913	Eric Purdon	Annapolis	5-19-4-16-11	82	15
23060	Robin Galus	Mission Bay	7-8-16-21-4	83	16
20689	Ted Hains	Canada	9-6-9-18-12	83.7	17
19091	Pete Dawson	Plymouth	23-12-5-14-6	85.4	18
22285	Harry Levinson	Indianapolis	6-1-nf-7-2	89	19
20685	Fred Ables	Sea Cliff	8-7-6-7-nf	92.7	20
20002	Bruce Colyer	Ft. Lauderdale	13-35-14-1-10	94	21
19712	Steve Callison	Annapolis	5-7-nf-9-8	97	22
14002	Keith Donald	Annapolis	10-12-17-13-16	98	23
22811	Frank Ferguson	Indianapolis	17-20-10-14-15	104	24
21300	Jan Brown	Canada	12-5-8-2-dq	105	25



21758, Norma Towle, past the leeward end start. (Alex Karlin photo)

Left center - Duse Chapin rounds mark. (John Townsend photo)



Above - Jeff and Peggy Lemari between races (John Townsend photo)



Dr. Pete in 19091 outside, Penny Simmons 9884 inside. (Alex Karlin photo)

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