



*A light air start at the 1992 N.A.S. Liz Merrifield photo.*

## COMMETTE AND SUDDATH TAKE NORTH AMERICANS WITH CONSISTENT FINISHES

Peter Commette and crew Connie Suddath of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, captured the 1992 North American Snipe Championship at Crescent Sail Yacht Club on Lake St. Clair, September 18-19th. Jack Franco and Mike Sturman of Newport Beach, California took second, followed by Hal Gilreath and Will Glenn of Annapolis in third, and current Snipe World Champions, Axel Rodger and Jorge Quiroga of Buenos Aires in fourth. Dick Mitchell and Hays-Mitchell of Cuba Lake were fifth, followed by the top local sailors Kirk Donaldson and Polk Wagner of Ann Arbor in sixth. Paul and Eric Deeds took the top junior award with a finish of sixteenth overall out of the forty-nine entrants.

The regatta attracted an outstanding turnout of top Snipe sailors from all over the U.S. as well as entrants from Canada, Argentina, and Brasil. The six-race series also provided a challenging variety of conditions ranging from 20-25 knots for the first race on Friday to light and shifty winds for three races on Saturday to near ideal 10-12 knot breezes and bright sun for two races on Sunday.

On Friday conditions were marginal for Snipes, with winds in the 18-25 range, and only 25 of the 49 entrants started the first race. Of those only 19 finished the race, and about eight of those capsized, including Rodger and Quiroga. After coming all the way from Argentina they got off to an inauspicious start with a swim before

the start of race one. They started seven minutes late but made a good recovery to finish ninth. Jibing the Snipes in the high winds and three foot waves was terrifying for most of the competitors. As many as five boats went down for the count, one after another, at the first jibe mark. Many of the boats jibed successfully and others tacked around rather than chancing a jibe amid the carnage. The wind was down slightly the second time around, but again, several boats elected to tack and protect their position rather than risking a capsize. Ian Brown and Don Behan of Oakville,

Ontario, took first in this race, passing Matt and Lisa Fisher who had led most of the way. The Fishers were followed by Dave and Joe Starck of Buffalo, Commette and Suddath, with Kirk Donaldson and Polk Wagner in fifth. Jack Franco did not compete in the first race and prayed that six races would be completed so that he would be able to throw out the first race. The weather got even uglier after the first race was finished and everyone was ready to call it a day when the RC boat weighed anchor.

After three races in light and shifty

*Tight action on the finish line at the North Americans. Liz Merrifield photo.*



winds on Saturday, Commette and Suddath, sailing conservatively up the middle of the beats, held a nice lead with scores of 4-2-1-4. Donaldson and Wagner were in second with 5-14-8-1. All the other leaders had a least one bad race and were far behind at this point with no throwout unless two races were completed on the final day of the regatta.

The weather was near perfect on Sunday, bright sun and a light breeze for the first race, with winds increasing to 10-12 for the second. With a second in the first race Commette and Suddath led the North American Championship and elected not to sail the finale. Their score for the regatta was 12.75, with very consistent top scores of 4-2-1-4-2. Jack Franco and Mike Sturman came on strong on Sunday with a first and a second to take second overall

with 21.75 points, an outstanding effort considering that they did not sail in the first race. Again, consistency was the key as they posted DNC-6-11-2-1-2. Hal Gilreath and Will Glenn were third with 29.75 points, followed by Rodger and Quiroga

with 32.00, and Dick Mitchell and Maureen Hays Mitchell of Cuba Lake in fifth with 39.00 points. Donaldson and Wagner did not have a good day on Sunday, scoring a 12th and 21st, and ended up sixth overall.

1992 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Crescent Sail Y.C.  
Top 10 of 49 boats

Finish	Skipper/Crew	Yacht	Placed	Points
1	Commette/Suddath	Pt. Lonsdale	4-2-1-4-2-DNC	12.75
2	Franco/Sturman	Newport Beach	DNC 6 11 2 1 2	21.75
3	Gilreath/Glenn	Annapolis	DNF 1-10 3-5-11	29.75
4	Rodger/Quiroga	Buenos Aires	9-3-7-4(0)-6-7	32.00
5	Mitchell/Mitchell	Cuba Lake	18 4 2 5 9 (20)	39.00
6	Donaldson/Wagner	Ant Arboe	5-14-8-1-12-(21)	39.75
7	Keane/Keenan	Boston	DNF 7 14 15 3 4	39.75
8	Hall/Kanter	5 9-12(2)-14 11-3	45.00	
9	Bowen/Behan	Oakville	1-4-(20)-20-13	45.75
10	Saret Brothers	Buffalo	3-10(13)-11-16	46.00

## THE 1992 ALL JAPAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

By Commodore Fujiya Matsumoto

The 8th annual All Japan Masters was held on August 8 & 9 at Gamagori, Aichi Prefecture, with 31 teams competing.

This event, which has always been held early in August of each year, featured charter Snipes provided by the local Gamagori Yacht Club, each prepared to the same level, another annual feature of this event.

In anticipation of the 1994 Masters Worlds which will be sailed in Gamagori, many new "young" teams joined the regulars which included Honorary Vice Commodore Katsumi Hirata, Commodore Fujiya Matsumoto, and SCIRA Board Member Akibumi Shinoda.

Affected by Typhoon #10, the first and second races of the first day were sailed in winds of 8-10 meters per second accompanied by occasionally heavy rains which severely limited visibility. This was a harsh test for many of the older teams and those who had returned to competition after 10 to 20 years, resulting in many capsize and retirements. The Yamauchi/Inaba/Bobayushi Team of the local Gamagori YC led the race followed by Sugiura/Nishimura Team of Toyota Motors YC, with Akagawa Kubo Team of Doshisha University OB in third. It seems that the young masters' physical strength contributed to the good result.

The second day was favored with fine weather and two races were sailed in 6-8 meters per second winds. The Yamauchi Team won the race. Mr. Yamauchi will

be sailing in the J24 Worlds to be sailed in Annapolis in October. As members of the hosting Gamagori YC they are looking forward to organizing and sailing in the 1994 Masters Worlds.

On this day the team of Yoshida and Saitoh, both Directors of SCIRA Japan and representing the Chiba Prefectural Federation Team, won both races and displayed overwhelming strength. It wasn't for the DNC of the first race they would have won the overall without question, but ended up fifth overall. Akagawa/Kubo Team of

Doshisha OB placed second and the Sugiura/Nishimura team of Toyota, who had a tie score, placed third.

Even though the younger teams took the top three places, due to the wind and wave conditions, the veterans in their late 50's, such as the Shinoda (President of Japan Snipe Association)/Hiratsuka team of Toyota Jido Shokki Sailing Club placed 4th and Tarutani/Suganuma Team, who sailed to three All Japan National titles in the 1950s, placed 6th, maintaining their pride.

It should be noted the Katsumi Hirata,

The masters sail upwind past the resort hotels that line the shore of Gamagori, site of the 1994 Masters Worlds.

