

1999 North Americans

Cottage Park Yacht Club, Winthrop, Massachusetts September 17-19

Tropical Storm Floyd couldn't keep 43 hearty Snipe teams from driving to Boston, Massachusetts for this year's North American Championship, held this past weekend out of the Cottage Park Yacht Club and hosted by Fleet 77 (Winchester) and Fleet 777 (Medford). Competitors traveled from as far away as Florida and California for this event, with Canada and Bermuda also represented in the competition.

The storm flag was flying at the yacht club Thursday as competitors negotiated heavy rains and winds on the freeways and roads leading to the club. Boston traffic was at its worst, and flight delays and airport closures delayed the arrival of several of the sailors until Friday, the first scheduled day of sailing. While regatta planners had maintained hope that conditions would improve quickly enough to get in some racing on Friday, winds all day clocked in at between 30-50 mph out of the northwest as the rain ended, giving competitors an opportunity to explore Boston and experience the hospitality of the club. A party at the famous Union Oyster House in downtown Boston was great fun and attended by nearly everyone.

Saturday dawned cloudless with brisk northwest winds continuing, but at a more reasonable 18-22 mph level. The first two races were double triangles, followed by an Olympic course for the 3rd race. Major wind shifts (up to 25-30 degrees) made for common lead changes up the beats, with jet wash from landing airplanes at Logan Airport briefly enhancing some of these shifts at times. Still, it was a fantastic day of sailing on Boston Harbor. At the end of three races, the leader board showed Andrew Pimental from Rhode Island (sailing with San Diegan Carolyn Brown) with a narrow lead over defending N.A. champ and 3-time US champion George Szabo from San Diego, sailing with Carol Newman Cronin from Rhode Island. Annapolis sailors (and US Pan-Am Games representatives) Henry Filter and Lori Stout were close behind in 3rd overall. Competitors were greeted on the dock by cold, foamy beverages and, later, a great steak and shrimp dinner at CPYC with the band X-Ray Tango providing entertainment. Those not having the energy to dance found the pool tables and bowling lanes at the club to be a great outlet.

The wind finally pooped out on Sunday, but not entirely. A light, easterly sea breeze along with a strong current made for a challenging race #4, a double windward-leeward.

The breeze increased and shifted right as race #5 got underway, though competitors favoring the left side of the course upwind were often rewarded with stronger breeze and less adverse current. Despite the changing conditions in each race, Szabo/Cronin and Pimental/Brown finished 1-2 respectively in each race and, ultimately, in the series (with just 0.75 points separating them overall). Filter/Stout were able to hang on for 3rd place overall.

With Szabo having already qualified for next year's Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship by winning the US nationals in San Diego in July, Pimental and Filter take the top-2 US spots from the NA's to complete the US team for next year's regatta in Argentina. In addition, Tufts University sailors Peter Levesque and Clare Dooley qualify for next year's Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship as the top juniors from the NA's, having edged out Tufts teammates JR Maxwell and Deane Madson for the honor.

Levesque/Dooley, as the top-placing jun-

iors at the NA's, also are the first winners of the new Chuck Loomis Memorial Trophy, donated to SCIRA by fleets 77 and 777, the Cottage Park Yacht Club and other friends of Chuck Loomis. As we all know, Chuck was a beloved member of the Snipe family and the Cottage Park Yacht Club who died suddenly last summer. His love of our class and life-long support of junior sailors will be memorialized at each North American Championship through this trophy.

Berta Swanson and I thank all the competitors for coming in spite of the early bad weather. In addition, we thank all of our sponsors (listed on our web site), volunteers, the Cottage Park Yacht Club, the Winchester Boat Club and the Medford Boat Club, for all of their help in putting on such a great event. Finally, thanks go out to local Snipe sailors who graciously lended (NOT chartered) their boats to competitors without boats of their own in Boston. We hope (but do not expect) this will be the start of a trend...

—John MacRae

	<i>Skipper/Crew</i>	<i>Country/Sail</i>	<i>Finishes</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	George Szabo/Carol N. Cronin	USA 29672	1-4-7-1-1	13.25
2.	Andrew Pimental/Carolyn Brown	USA 29499	3-5-2-2-2	14
3.	Henry Filter/Lori Stout	USA 28702	2-1-12-4-6	24.75
4.	Bryan/Kerri Fishback	USA 27054	4-3-8-8-4	27
5.	Alex Pline/Sherry Eldridge	USA 29147	9-2-9-6-9	35
6.	Jim Bowers/Myrna Chan MacRae	USA 28440	17-9-6-3-5	40
7.	Lee Griffith/Lisa Griffith	USA 29204	6-10-16-7-7	46
8.	Kevin/Mike Funsch	USA 26743	5-12-4-13-15	49
9.	Carr Moody/Rick Jarchov	USA 29442	13-7-3-15-16	54
10.	Bill Kelley/Monique Gaylor	USA 28050	10-17-1-14-13	54.75
11.	John/Maggie Manderson	USA 28065	8-15-5-17-12	57
12.	**Lee/Tod Sackett	USA 28575	14-11-10-21-3	59
13.	John MacRae/Barb Evans	USA 29999	12-13-23-5-10	63
14.	Michael Kaim/Jamie Lipp	USA 29369	7-14-14-32-11	78
15.	Mike/Maggie Delaney	USA 29536	15-16-18-11-21	81
16.	Greg Fisher/Jerelyn Biehl	USA 29109	11-8-15-9-dnc	86
17.	Art/Jennifer Rousmaniere	USA 25412	22-6-26-20-14	88
18.	*Peter Levesque/Clare Dooley	USA 2854	19-21-21-16-19	96
19.	*JR Maxwell/Dean Madson	USA 2844	28-18-17-22-17	102
20.	Steve Keckler/Susie Bowers	USA 27238	24-23-29-10-22	108
21.	David/Melissa Nelson	USA 25679	20-24-22-26-18	110
22.	John Lally/Kerry O'Brien	USA 28542	25-22-11-30-24	112
23.	Nigel Mendez/Patricia Schmidt	USA 26488	29-20-19-25-20	113
24.	Dave Fosletter/marnie Appleton	CAN 28045	16-28-31-19-25	119
25.	Bob Coyle/Chuck D'Antonio	USA 24695	18-25-20-36-23	122
26.	Joel Zackin/Celeste Suggs	USA 29777	23-19-24-29-27	122
27.	Brad Dunn/Ken Delpapa	USA 28680	21-27-25-24-26	123
28.	Steve Braverman/Jessica Costa	USA 26451	26-26-13-37-35	137
29.	**Robbie/Rob Gorman	USA 26810	27-30-27-18-36	138
30.	John Mullane/Liz Brooks	USA 27591	34-34-34-12-30	144
31.	David Whyman/Alex Nelson	CAN 27103	32-29-32-31-32	156
32.	Martin Fraser/Annie Gaffey	USA 24999	30-35-35-27-33	160
33.	James/Carol Tomassetti	USA 26132	dnc-31-30-28-28	160
34.	David Lence/Jiim Bruer	USA 27101	dnc-32-dnc-35-8	164
35.	Joe Dugan/Susan Kennedy	USA 28443	33-33-33-34-31	164
36.	Bill/Sarah Baldwin	USA 27999	35-36-28-41-39	179
37.	Kevin/Vivan Heatherington-Young	USA 25090	31-cnd-cnd-33-29	179
38.	Neal/Laura Snebold	USA 27099	37-37-dnc-39-34	190
39.	Eugene Sartori/martin Bechthold	USA 26999	dnc-dnf-dnc-23-dnc	195
40.	David/Adele Hayward	USA 27393	36-dnc-dnc-40-38	200
41.	Ernie Hardy/Chris Aiello	USA 8300	dnc-dnc-dnc-38-37	204
42.	Ray/Nancy Pitman	BER 19708	dnf-dnc-dnc-dnc-dnc	215

**junior/senior competitors

* junior competitors