

# One Point Wonder – Raul Rios and Fernando Monllor Win Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship

It doesn't get closer than this. Skipper Raul Rios and his crew Fernando Monllor won the Snipe Western Hemisphere and Orient Championship by a single point.

Going into the final day of racing, Rios was one of three teams with a real shot at nabbing the coveted title of champion. With the Organizing Authority's announcement of an ocean course, competitors knew to be nervous as the Puerto Rican skipper has raced notoriously well on open water throughout the regatta.

A mere four points separated Soubie and Rios before the final race, and getting off the starting line quickly was more crucial than ever before. Rios and Monllor were in sixth place by the time the fleet made it to the gate marks. They



maneuvered around their competitors with sharp tactical handling, making their way up the fleet to ultimately finish third in the race, just behind the two USA teams skippered by Diaz and Hart.

"We knew it was going to be a tough day, but we just had to focus on one boat at a time, one leg at a time," said Rios.

Argentinean sailors Luis Soubie and Diego "Mini" Lipszyc struggled to maintain their position as regatta leaders throughout the final day of



racing. Though they previously did well on the first two days of the ocean course, they couldn't seem to get the starts they needed to lead either of today's races.

"Today was a disaster," Soubie said of his 25th finish in Race 9 and 10th place finish in Race 10.

"We ended the day feeling like we didn't do much racing at all today. We were constantly in an emergency or getting away from trouble."

Both of today's races ended up being throw out scores,

making them rely on

their previous four days of top finishes to secure their position in second place overall.

**Photos: Top: Monllor & Rios. Left: Soubie/Lipszyc at weather mark. Below: South Bay course & Coronado Bridge.**



Though disappointed that he let go of first, Soubie says he's happy with his overall second place finish.

As a qualifying event for next year's Pan Am Games, a lot more was riding on this regatta than just determining who would become the 2014 Snipe WH&O Champion. Many coaches made the far trek across international waters to insure that their country could qualify in time to compete in Pan Am's to be held in Canada. Puerto Rico, USA, Cuba, Ecuador and Colombia have all qualified during this regatta, while the Bahamas and Mexico remain unqualified.

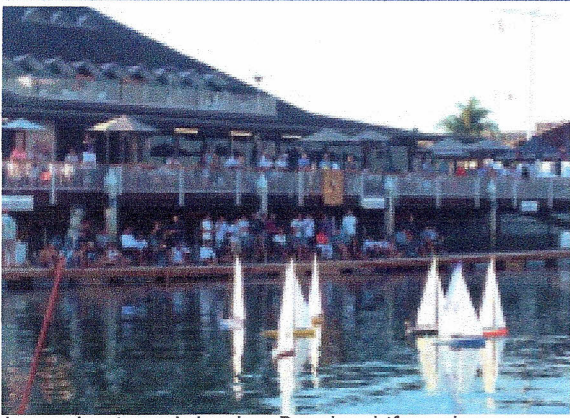
Looking even further to the future of the Snipe Class, Soubie was happy to endorse the skipper who edged him out of the championship. "He's the future of the Snipe Class," Soubie said. "He's only 20 years old. He's going to make this class proud."

## 2 Venues

San Diego Yacht Club and the Regatta Organizers decided to throw a challenge to the sailors by offering 2 venues: flat water of the South Bay and the typical Ocean course, previously sailed in the 2009 Snipe Worlds.

With left-over remnants from a downgraded Hurricane off Mexico, the decision the first day was to sail inside San Diego Bay. Local sailor Randy Lake with Kate Shehan, straight off a 2nd place finish in the recent World Masters in





Japan, dominated the day. But the shift to the ocean mixed the competition back up and Raul Rios and Fernando Monllor of Puerto Rico climbed to the top of the leaderboard. Luis Soubie and Diego Lipszyc stayed consistent and going into the last day of racing held the lead. The change of gears from ocean to bay and vice versa favored the strong sailors able to make changes.



was in the main clubhouse and front deck with sailors dancing the night away.

### Meetings

An Open Sailors Forum was held with sailors giving their views on various issues facing the Snipe Class.

Thursday was the National Secretaries meeting attended by each country with further discussion of events effecting the Snipe class.

All in all - it was a spectacular event.

### Social Side

San Diego's fleet 495 did not disappoint. A fantastic opening ceremony followed by appetizers and a band welcomed the sailors and guests. Daily beverages after sailing and dock-side food were provided daily greeting the hungry sailors after the long tow in.

Tuesday evening all competitors were divided among 6 local

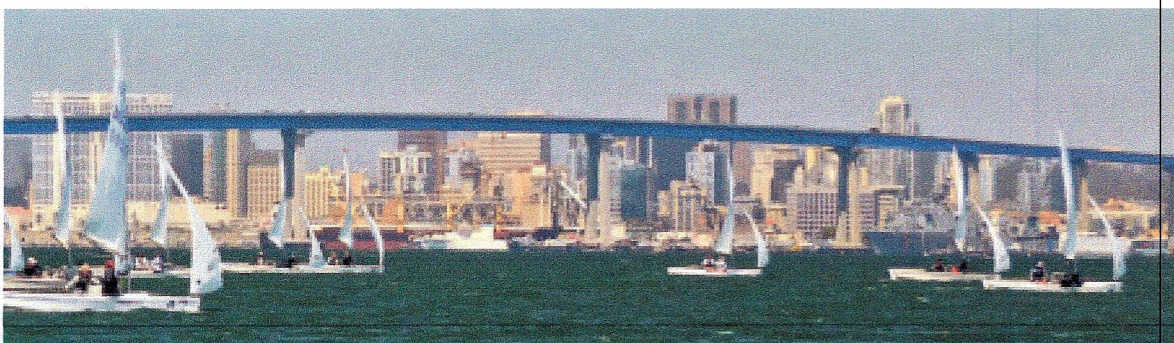
Snipe sailors homes for food & drink and a chance to mix-it-up.

Wednesday found the sailors just as competitive off the water with remote control model yachts donated to test skills off the front dock followed by a BBQ.

Thursday an impromptu Stand-up Paddleboard race was initiated with some heading to a local beach to roast hotdogs by the fire. The Prizegiving



*Photos: Top: left: model yacht racing; left: tally board for model yacht race; Top right: Gate rounding confusion; Above: Rios & Monllor in fine form. All photos by John Payne. Johnpaynephoto.com*



# WH&O Final Results - 2014

	<i>Skipper/Crew</i>	<i>country</i>	<i>Sail #</i>	<i>Finishes</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Raul Rios/Fernando Monllor	PUR	29841	9-1-1-3-3-4-(15)-(26)-6-3	30
2.	Luis Soubie/Diego Lipszyc	ARG	28701	3-8-8-2-1-2-2-5-(25)-(10)	31
3.	Breno Bianchi/Flavio de Castro	BRA	30997	6-2-7-1-2-11-5- (12)-11-(13)	45
4.	Rafael Gagliotti/Henrique Wisniewski	BRA	31004	(27)-(27)-10-4-5-5-9-4-3-9	49
5.	Alexandre Tinoco/Alexandre Niederauer	BRA	31151	12-4-5-10-(17)-9-3-6-(31)-8	57
6.	Brian Kamilar/Enrique Quintero	USA	30759	(23)-6-14-5-6-(30)-11-15-5-4	66
7.	Augie Diaz/Aine Fretwell	USA	30288	5-7-17-7-(20)-10-(28)-8-16-2	72
8.	Doug Hart/Ryan Hopps	USA	29941	1-5-15-(23)-(dns)-18-20-14-7-1	81
9.	Koji Kamiya/Tatsuya Yamauchi	JPN	31054	15-(31)-2-12-23-(dsq)-4-21-2-6	85
10.	Chuck Sinks/Robbie Dean	USA	28687	7-(30)-6-17-4-20-19-7-10-(24)	90
11.	Randy Lake/Kate Sheahan	USA	28854	2-3-19-16-(24)-(ocs)-6-16-18-15	95
12.	Raul Diaz/Rafael Garcia	CUB	31038	17-12-(21)-6-13-17-10-1-20-(27)	96
13.	Andrew Pimental/Nikki Bruno	USA	31188	21-9-4-30-22-(31)-1-3-(35)-7	97
14.	Ernesto Rodriguez/Eduardo Mintzias	USA	31130	16-(22)-(25)-20-18-12-14-9-4-5	98
15.	Carol Cronin/Kim Couranz	USA	30860	4-16-18-19-(30)-8-8-(31)-13-14	100
16.	Mateus Tavares/Jonathan Lherke	BRA	31066	25-19-13-14-11-7-(ocs)-11-1-(35)	101
17.	David Tillson/Rebecca McElvain	USA	30109	8-14-12-8-(31)-21-(24)-13-8-19	103
18.	Tetuya Shimamoto/Keisuke Kushida	JPN	30924	(28)-10-(28)-15-12-14-7-23-24-17	122
19.	Rick Arneson/Diana Waterbury	USA	30800	13-(32)-22-22-9-19-13-20-12-(30)	130
20.	Edgar Diminich/Eduardo Viteri	ECU	31027	19-(36)-16-(28)-8-28-22-10-19-11	133
21.	Ryohei Doi/Keiichiro Itagaki	JPN	28732	32-13-3-11-15-3-(36)-29-33-(36)	139
22.	Felipe Sabino/Bernardo Sarzedas	BRA	30996	(37)-25-26-24-7-(dsq)-18-2-30-16	148
23.	Jesus Bailon/Iberth Constante	COL	31037	10-18-(31)-18-(33)-26-21-22-21-12	148
24.	Raul Faura/Jose Pina	CUB	29517	(36)-21-20-(37)-19-1-12-25-28-26	152
25.	Helio Lyra/Joao Pedor Moreira	BRA	31113	29-28-(30)-9-10-15-(37)-28-14-22	155
26.	Eric Heim/Aimee Heim	USA	30337	22-23-9-13-(28)-27-23-24-15-(33)	156
27.	Kosuke Demichi/Shun Yanagibayashi	JPN	30353	18-15-23-36-(ocs)-13-17-19-(39)-21	162
28.	Motoharu Nishii/Tomohisa Noakamura	JPN	31134	11-20-11-32-(34)-(36)-16-17-32-29	168
29.	Genya Ozaki/Kawano Motomichi	JPN	30722	14-29-35-(38)-21-6-29-36-17-(41)	187
30.	Roberto Guaragna/Andrew Guaragna	USA	29778	(40)-11-29-33-14-32-26-18-26-(39)	189
31.	Esteban Echavarria/Juan Restrepo	COL	30718	20-(dsq)-27-25-16-29-(35)-33-22-18	190
32.	Diego Figueroa/Alonso Collantes	PER	31150	33-17-32-(zfp/38)-25-22-25-27-(37)-25	206
33.	Kento Hashimoto/Kazuki murayama	JPN	30844	24-33-(40)-26-37-16-30-(40)-23-20	209
34.	Nicholas Kaschak/Krystal Trieberg	USA	29958	26-24-(39)-34-26-24-39-(OCS)-9-31	213
35.	Cameron Fraser/Elizabeth Glivinski	USA	30903	31-(35)-34-21-29-25-31-30-(36)-23	224
36.	Chris/Lauren Wright	USA	29013	30-(34)-24-27-(35)-33-34-34-34-32	248
37.	Jimmie Lowe/Don Bedford	BAH	28811	34-26-36-(40)-36-23-33-35-(ocs)-38	261
38.	Carolina Ponton/Nicolas Hernandez	COL	29651	(42)-(38)-37-31-27-35-27-37-38-37	269
39.	Matheus Franca/Daniel Seixas Claro	BRA	31159	39-37-38-39-32-34-(dnf)-32-27-(40)	278
40.	Alfonso Garcia/Javier Garcia Bringas	MEX	30330	38-41-41-5-38-(dnf)-41-(42)-29-28	291
41.	Alejandro Triggiano/Mariana Safar	ARG	31222	35-(42)-33-42-(dsq)-38-32-38-40-34	292
42.	Stephan Irgens/Monica Irgens	USA	28470	(43)-40-42-41-40-37-40-39-41-(43)	320
43.	Christopher Hains/Barb Mann	CAN	29318	41-39-(43)-(43)-39-39-38-41-42-42	321

