

**2006 Western Hemisphere & Orient  
National Secretaries Meeting  
October 22, 2006  
Miami, Florida, USA**

Western Hemisphere & Orient Acting General Secretary Hal Gilreath called the meeting to order at 9:25am. Those in attendance were: Commodore Robert Dunkley, Bahamas; Kenji Abe, Japan; David Odell, SCIRA Treasurer; Martin Dovat, Uruguay; Jose Lovigne, Argentina; Vice Commodore Pedro Garra, Uruguay; Don Hackbarth, USA; and visitors Past Commodore Brainard Cooper, ISAF Rep.; Jerelyn Biehl & Sherri Campbell, SCIRA Office; Mary Buckley, US Administrator.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2004 WH&O meeting was made by Don Hackbarth, seconded by Robert Dunkley. Minutes were approved.

**WH&O Acting General Secretary Hal Gilreath:** Hal welcomed all NS and representatives. Hal expressed he is happy with the new growth of Snipe activity with Puerto Rico, Mexico, Ecuador and Paraguay as well as US Virgin Islands. Membership has declined a little, but we need to work on the next generation of sailors. Hal will have Robert Dunkley discuss the Long Range Planning Committee's proposal.

**National Secretaries reports:**

**Argentina:** Jose Lovigne reported that in Argentina there are currently 35 fleet with 4 fleets active. The objective is to promote the Buenos Aires fleet. We had our Nationals in Cordoba with 30 boats with 50 boats in the South American Championships which helped grow the fleet in Cordoba. Argentina/Uruguay organized a festival between both countries and they were qualifiers for the WH&O. It was a good way to promote both countries and fleets. It is difficult to obtain new boats in Argentina. Laser, 420 and 29er are more accessible – it is a function of no Argentine manufacturer and customs difficulties. In Argentina, we realize the need to organize a World or WH&O championship to help promote the Snipe.

**Japan:** Kenji Abe: Nationals was held over 6 days with 63 boats. Activity in number of fleets has increased with approximately 15 regattas.

**Canada:** Chris Hains sent the following report: Canada's new fleet at Guelph Lake, Ontario, is doing well with 13 boats in the fleet of which 10 are resident in Guelph. At least four or five boats sail regularly in fleet races. It is anticipated that further boats will be added to the Guelph Lake fleet. The fleet has been built with used boats of various ages from 24000 series through 28000 series. Five boats from Guelph Lake fleet plus another sailed by two ex-pat Canadians from the San Francisco fleet went to the North Americans at Gull Lake. Canada qualified in Snipe for the 2007 Pan Am Games at that event. It was also the national qualifier for the Snipe for the Pan Am Games. Craig Noakes and Heather Marshall will be nominated by the CYA as Canada's Snipe representatives for the Games. There were two boats from Canada at the World Masters. If Bermuda bids for the 2007 North Americans, Canada will support the bid.

**US Virgin Islands:** Jean Sylvester sent the following report: On behalf of the US Virgin Islands Snipe sailors, I would like to thank you for welcoming our fleet to the SCIRA family, especially Jerelyn and Hal for making it all possible. Presently we are small but growing. We currently have 6 members and three boats. The interest in Snipe sailing does have some history in the VI as it used to be the one design boat of the St. Croix Yacht Club in the 70's. In fact, it beat out the Lightning! So we are proud to revive this class in the VI, where our weather allows us to sail throughout the year. Our proximity to Puerto Rico and South America can be instrumental in bridging the gap between North and South American. We hope to build our fleet and sometime in the near future host a regatta.

**Uruguay:** Martin Dovat showed a PowerPoint presentation. Uruguay plans 6 months in advance, coordinating with Argentine National Secretary. National sponsors are approached and include the website and press. All of these contribute to the objectives of all members racing. National: 1 ranking regatta per month. Snipe activity at least once every 15 days and we try to use juniors as crews at lower regattas. Races are held with the Laser fleet and sometimes Optimist fleets. Social activities are included. Impact: more sailing; ranking regattas guarantee a good turnout; sailing with friends of other classes. Sponsorship: all sponsorship is dedicated to international regatta participation. International regattas infuse new boats to Uruguay. 2001: 13 new boats; 2006: 4 new boats. Our future goal is to entice 14 & 15 year olds to sail.

Sponsors: we offer lower promotion price (cost) than if they placed an ad in a newspaper. Sponsors cover all boats: stickers on boat, flags on masts, articles before & after all ranking regattas. Contract value (URU \$) 2005: \$5,000; 2006: \$8,000. We promote young people, outdoor activities. Best excuse for photos, article and extra motivation to all sailors. 20% of all \$ is destined for the press. Uruguyan sailors take photos, write articles, produce video, placement on web: visibility in: newspaper, local radio, local sailing magazine. Snipe fleet has best visibility in the press. Sustainability is the focus on the future.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Members	22	34
Boats	11	17
Juniors	6	13
Women	--	9

**Bahamas:** Robert Dunkley reported for Peter Christie. Currently the Bahamas has 13 active Snipes with 6 sailing regularly. The junior program, led by Jimmie Lowe, began 3 years ago with Optis and we had 57 boats this year anticipating more. Our plan is to move the Opti sailors to Snipes. Our Fun Day has many kids sailing. Our major events are the Snipe Winter Circuit with the Bacardi & Gamblin series (20 boats). We held the World Masters with 36 boats and 10 countries. Growth will come.

**USA:** Don Hackbarth reported that SCIRA USA has completed its reorganization and is now operating as a non-for-profit corporation in the USA, exempt from taxes and donations to the organization are tax deductible for the donor. USA is now financially stable with adequate cash reserves and is operating with a cash surplus. This has been accomplished by a meaningful amount of the work of the organization being done on a volunteer basis by its members and a very successful program of voluntary premium memberships. Our membership and boat registrations over the past 3 years have been

stable to slightly declining. We have established a position of Vice National Secretary to improve continuity and transition when officers change. Barb Evans is our current Vice NS and will assume NS role in January 2007. The organization is governed by a Board of 13 consisting of the 7 District Governors, 4 members at large, Chief Measurer and NS. We have an executive administrator who manages the basic business affairs of the organization. The ex admin is paid for approx. 50% of her time and volunteers/contributes the other 50% of her time (an active Snipe sailor). With reduced administrative costs we have redirected more of our resources towards promotion and marketing. We have also been working on improving our process of collection of dues, follow-up, etc., enhanced our communication with members, and are more aggressively monitoring memberships and boat registrations at regattas (in the week before each regatta the host receives a pdf of a current list of USA members and registered boats, also placed on our website.) As we strengthen our financial position, we are moving forward with an aggressive marketing campaign promoting the Snipe Class involving upgrading our website, reworking our printed magazine and developing other tools to be distributed through various media. A large portion of the focus will be placed on promoting fleet racing activities for the family at the local club. A major problem USA faces is the continued decline of active fleet racing at the local clubs on weekends. The number of active fleets in the SUA is a real concern. The maintenance and development of new fleets and active fleet racing is seen as the key to stabilizing the membership and helping the Class in the USA grow over the long term. Issues for the WH&O to consider: -last year there was a mention of reviewing the representation of various areas of SCIRA on the World Board. We understand that the LRPC is about to propose a revision in the size and composition of the SCIRA Board of Governors USA would like the WH&O to collectively remind the Board that the WH&O region is underrepresented on the Board and contains the two largest nations in SCIRA, USA and Japan, which comprise themselves a meaningful majority of the members of SCIRA. The current permanent positions on the Board of the WH&O region do not reflect this area's proportion of the SCIRA membership. We are also concerned that this change in the Board may be proceeding too fast without proper consideration and feedback from the SCIRA nations. Question: as SCIRA collects most of its revenue via membership dues vs. boat dues why is the World representation still based on boat registrations?

Question: what can SCIRA do for the SA nations to provide those countries with promotional tools for marketing which the nation might not be able to afford to produce within its own current resources?

**ISAF Representative:** Brainard Cooper announced he would be representing SCIRA at the November ISAF Conference in Helsinki. He will be attending the Int. Classes Committee. There are currently 2 issues that may effect SCIRA: 1) rule to certify molds is still under discussion. 2) Laser measurement rig. Dina Kowalyshyn (former SCIRA measurer) is leading the laser measurement project. Brainard will also attend the Regional Games meeting and address the equipment proposal for the Regional Games. Another issue if ISAF plaques required on all International class boats at worlds.

**Deed of Gift – WH&O:** The change to the current DoG reflected a reallocation of open slots. There was some opposition to making it an open event so a compromise was held making it a structured open allocation. There was a problem with many teams dropping out within the last week. This leaves the regatta organizers at risk. An open discussion

was held: several teams registered without paying. Many registrations could not be processed on credit cards. Some teams withdrew and countries back-filled. As of the first day of the regatta, 6-7 registrants have withdrawn. A suggestion was during the allocation to identify sailors with individuals to pay by a stated deadline. There will be a gap between the payment & reallocation period. A country can then "buy" spots. NS can pay registrations en masse. Suggestion: Give a 50% refund (stated in NOR), no charter refund, to cover fixed costs. NS must be copied on all correspondence. Suggestions: accountability starts at the individual level. Once a deadline for an individual has passed, each NS then is re-contacted for additional spots. Discussion of charter boats: a 50 boat entry is difficult to provide charter boats. Limit of local entries for countries with fewer charter boats. Suggestion to add to the DoG that the host country can limit local entries.

#### **Future Bids:**

##### **North Americans:**

2007: Bermuda (to be voted on by NA NS)

2008: provisional interest from Cottage Park, MA, USA

##### **South Americans:**

2007: Uruguay

2008: Brazil

##### **WH&O**

2008: Argentina & Uruguay interested. Japan should be asked as well. Bids should be received by January 1, 2007, voted on by March 2007.

##### **Worlds**

2009: Bid submitted by USA (San Diego) for Junior and Senior Worlds.

Bahamas may be interested in hosting the junior worlds in 2009.

##### **Women's Worlds**

2010: WH N. America or Orient should host.

##### **World Masters**

2010: Brazil (Lagoa or Brasilia interested)

There was no unfinished business.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Robert Dunkley briefly discussed the proposal to restructure the SCIRA Board. He offered to answer any questions.

##### **New Business:**

###### **Elections:**

**General Secretary:** Hal Gilreath nominated

**Vice Secretary:** Martin Dovat nominated

Both nominees were approved unanimously

**Deed of Gift: South American Championship.** The Deed of Gift changes as passed by the SA National Secretaries, were distributed by Pedro Garra, seconded by Jose Lovigne. Motion was passed unanimously.

**Other Business:** Jerelyn Biehl introduced Sherri Campbell to the NS in attendance. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm