

**2008 Western Hemisphere & Orient  
National Secretaries Meeting  
Yacht Club Punta del Este, Uruguay  
November 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am by Vice WH&O Secretary Martin Dovat. Those in attendance included: Martin Dovat, Vice WH&O Sec; Kenji Abe, Japan; Antonio Poncell, Chile; Pancho Agusti, Argentina; Luis Chiapparro, Bermuda; Jerry Thompson, USA; Dante Bianchi, Brazil; Colin May, Canada; Commodore Pedro Garra, Uruguay; Santiago Uzcategui, Colombia and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl.

Martin welcomed everyone to Uruguay and was pleased with the 49 registrations from 9 countries at the Championship. Membership numbers for the WH&O countries were distributed.

A motion to approve the minutes from the 2006 WH&O meeting was made by Jerry Thompson, seconded by Pedro Garra. The minutes were approved as posted.

**National Secretary Reports**

**Argentina:** Pancho Agusti reported that he has returned as NS and now has his 4 children sailing the Snipe. Argentina has 45 boats among 5 fleets. There is a strong support of junior sailors as they are promoting the Snipe to the Optimist sailors. The Buenos Aires fleet has started again with 8 boats out of YC Olivios. New boats are difficult to obtain and is an issue for growth in Argentina.

**Bermuda:** Luis Chiapparro reported that the Snipe is an older fleet and it's hard to get people to sail. Lance and Catalina are enthusiastic juniors but in Bermuda, at 16 the juniors go to school in the US, Canada or Bermuda and don't return to the island until their mid-20s. Bermuda will be sending 2 teams to the Junior Worlds.

**Brazil:** Dante Bianchi reported that over the past 5 years the class has been changing in Brazil. Many fleets have been added – Salvador, Santos, Brasilia as well as 3 strong (Porto Alegre, Rio, Sao Paulo). Diemer is building many Snipes, but North is no longer making sails in Brazil. Lema (Diemer) is also making masts now. The South American Championships were excellent with 63 boats.

**Canada:** Colin May reported for NS Harri Palm. The fleet is slowly growing with 2-4 boat growth. States were held in Rochester with 15 boats. Colin is attempting to start a fleet in Quebec. Co-op boats help grow the fleet.

**Colombia:** There are new Skipper Snipes in Cartagena built from the Skipper mould. The Class is based in Bogata, but we are developing new sites with up to 6 new areas targeted. The Nationals will be held in December with 8 other sports.

**Chile:** Tomas Rodriguez is the NS and we will have a new NS for 2009. Next weekend is the National. We had 1 builder which is no longer active. The mould is still strong and we are looking for someone to build boats. Our junior team is here and we hope to send them to the '09 Jr. Worlds. We have 24 boats averaging 14 on the line and we hope to have 20 at our Nationals.

**Japan:** Kenji Abe was representing Seiji Koga who is the National Secretary. The Olympic classes are strong but the Snipe is also recognized and growing strong. Our membership is mostly University students and attracting new members proves to be difficult. In November we held our Nationals in Enoshima with 65 boats. We have many Masters sailors. We will send a strong team to the '09 Worlds. Okamura and Tsujido are our 2 major builders and they offer a special price to students at 80% of the cost. A new boat is \$15,000 and they offer \$10,000. Our Commodore has proposed some young people to be involved in the Class. Martin Dovat then asked how the Snipe could expand in the Orient and asked Japan to assist.

**Uruguay:** Martin Dovat presented a powerpoint presentation (which will be available on the website.) The presentation outlined Uruguay's approach to promoting and growing the class beginning with an organized calendar, calculated international participation, and bringing Int. championships to Uruguay. A ranking system is used which includes social activity. The program has been a success with World & Hemisphere Champions in Uruguay and Snipe sailors being named Uruguay's Sportsmen of the Year. Membership has increased and reached a peak of 35 members. To grow, more boats are needed. 80% of the boats are used. The change of the junior age has been good although more work can be done on the junior level. Uruguay is working on importing Deimer boats. Our focus for the coming years is to keep on local and international organization; better coaching for juniors; and access to new boats.

**USA:** Jerry Thompson reported for the US and stated there is a change in the NS. The Nationals were held in San Francisco with a low turnout, but a great regatta. The low turnout was attributed to the economy and that SF is known as a windy venue. Jerry encouraged as many to attend the Winter Circuit as possible. US

membership is down. More Jibe Tech boats are being bought and built due to the exchange rate between the US \$ and euro.

### **Future Bids**

#### **WH&O**

**2010:** Royal Hamilton YC in Canada has presented a bid. The bid will be circulated among the WH&O Sec. for a vote. Discussion was given to assurance of good charter boats.

**2012** – South America will host.

#### **North Americans**

**2009** – Erie, Pennsylvania, USA was granted the event

**2010** – Puerto Rico or Buffalo Canoe Club is possibly interested.

#### **South Americans**

**2009** – Buenos Aires, Argentina to host

**2010** – Chile to host

**2011** – Argentina to host

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

**2010** – North American to host. Bids are being accepted.

Discussion was held to create a regional championship for the Central American/Caribbean area.

### **Elections:**

Martin Dovat –Uruguay, was proposed and voted to be General Secretary

Don Bedford – USA, was proposed and voted to be Vice Secretary

### **New Business**

**Junior Worlds:** a discussion was held to increase the size of the fleet. The WH&O will submit a proposal to the Board for consideration.

**Measurement issues:** most rudders measured were not in compliance. A report will be sent to the SCIRA Rules Committee & Chief Measurer.

**Pan Am Games:** Puerto Vallarta, Mexico will host the next Games

**Odesur** – Uruguay will host in Snipes & Lasers in March 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.