

**Western Hemisphere & Orient
National Secretaries Meeting
August 29, 2010
Buffalo Canoe Club, Canada**

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Luis Pessanha at 3:40pm. Those in attendance were: Harri Palm, CAN; Raul Rios, PUR; Kay Voss, USA; Wataru Mochizaki, JPN; Patricio Middleton, CHI; Pancho Agusti, ARG, Jonatas Goncalves, BRA; David Sprague, PASAF and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl.

Harri Palm motioned that the minutes from the 2008 meeting be accepted as distributed. Motion seconded by Raul Rios. Motion passed.

Report of Officers: General Secretaries report: Welcome to the 2010 Western Hemisphere and Orient National Secretaries meeting.

Since our last meeting in 2008, a lot has happened:

- The class has shown a consistent growth in our region, showing how active and competitive the Snipe class has been throughout our region of the World.

Year	2007	2008	2009
Individual Memberships (WH&O countries)	1825	2281	2422
Boat Membership (WH&O countries)	1076	1260	1317

- New countries have also joined the Snipe class such as Ecuador, and some others have increased dramatically their activity, such as Canada, Argentina and Japan. This is due to your hard work as National Secretaries and fleet captains, congratulations!
- The new bid for the WH&O championship has proven to be very successful in obtaining high level of participation from WH&O countries as well as increasing its competitive level and attractiveness.
- The Snipe class continues to be one of the most popular and competitive classes in the Pan American region, proven by the fact that the next Pan American games at Mexico will have the Snipe class.
- A new international competition has been implemented by the Olympic committees of South American Countries - the Beach Games. The Snipe class was included during the first edition of these games in 2010.
- Chile has suffered a terrible earthquake, forcing the South American championship to be raced in November. Once again we show our most sincere

sympathy for Chile and thank every South American country to have been open in adjusting their international regatta calendar to the new date.

We see a very promising and sustainable future for the class, due to its stability, its growth in the past few years, the inclusion of new countries, but mostly due to the passion, competitiveness and family spirit that the Snipe Sailors share.

We still have a lot of work in terms of expanding the Snipe class in Asia, which is a very interesting developing market. We would like to develop a Strategy with Japan to achieve the objective of having one more Asian country in the next WH&O championship.

In South America, it has been tough to integrate countries from Northern South America (such as Colombia and now Ecuador) to the South American championship rotations. We would like to hear your comments as to how this can be achieved.

We would now like to hear your country reports and your thoughts in order to continue developing the class in the region as it has been in the past few years.

PASAF

David Sprague discussed the upcoming Pan American Games and a meeting that will be coming up in one month. A Notice of Race for a Pre-Pan Am event is now available in the same venue and facilities in the Nuevo Vallarta Yacht Club. Canada discussed the qualification and the unfortunate issue of the earthquake in Chile that caused the change of dates.

Country Reports:

Argentina: Argentina has approximately 60 boats sailing around the country and 25-50 boats in regattas. ARG open had 50 boats. The National Championship includes 8 different regattas which they use as a selection process for the worlds. A new boat is being built from Rio Techna with the first new boat expected in the next 2 months. They have the support of the measurer to ensure a legal Snipe. There are 8 new fleets but no new fleets. The juniors are an important part of our fleet with 12 crews for the junior fleet with much support to improve their skills. They work with the Optimist sailors and the parents and organize Snipe regattas at the same time as the Optimist events. In 5 years time they believe they will see the results.

Chile: The earthquake was quite severe and there are some areas that are still affected. The psychology of the people of the country is not the best. We have only had 1 regatta since the earthquake, which was the qualification for this event. The South American Championship in November will be good with strong wind. The wind should be 12-25+. Algarrobo will organize the championship but the tsunami destroyed the pier. We have some juniors coming to the Snipe with all the classes concentrated in one club. There are 5 crews from Chile.

Japan: Membership is mostly university students but freshman students are decreasing. In November our Nationals were held in Gamagori with over 60 boats. Junichiro Shirisi is the National Champion and is competing here. 95 boats competed in the Enoshima East Japan Championship. The 2010 Nationals will be in Nagasaki with we hope 60

boats. Japan shipped 3 or 4 boats to Korea in 2010. It is very difficult to promote the Snipe in Asia. The economy has also effected companies sponsoring the Snipe in Japan. Masters Nationals typically have 30-40 competitors.

Brazil: The Class continues to grow in Brazil with Lemao continuing to build many boats. They assist new sailors with a good price for boats. Sails are also being marketed well in Brazil to the sailors. The Class in Brazil takes families sailing and giving access to all. The Nationals were in Florianopolis in January with 75 boats. New fleets are being created with regattas in the various regions.

USA: Our numbers are staying constant with 700 members and 500 boats with about a 2% decline per year. Our Board is analyzing the average age of our members and we have been working hard to fill in the "missing generation" as members. We have been losing individual fleets and memberships in California and the Southeast. The northeast and plains areas are increasing. The 2010 Nationals had 62 boats in Annapolis. Each District Champion qualifies for the Nationals to entice local racing to increase. Nationals venues are changed for less driving for everyone, but we don't have a venue for 2011. 20% of our Nationals participation in 2010 was of 20-year old sailors. A member created a 12-boat trailer and donates his truck to help drive the boat around. The US shipped 4 boats for the Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico and helped Puerto Rico and Mexico in recent years.

Canada: Membership has grown slow but steady. We have 30 members and 13 boats. Most of sailing is in Guelph. There is some interest in forming new fleets in Montreal and Toronto. Other classes seem to overwhelm the Snipe in Canada. Only 7 boats were at our Nationals this year and we host 2 big events each year: Nationals and an early spring event. Some of the Star sailors have been trying the Snipe and have purchased some boats. The Pan Am Games will be in Canada in 2015. Juniors are difficult to entice until you can get them in the boat.

Puerto Rico: Busy summer with the North Americans with 5 countries & 21 boats. The Central & Caribbean Games with 4 countries (Cuba and Colombia did not send anyone) were held afterwards. The PUR Federation purchased 6 new boats as well as Laser & Sunfish to increase sailing. The Optimist sailors are being recruited but seem to scare away the older sailors. The Caribbean area is worried about the Snipe with difficulty to get more countries involved.

Uruguay: As the last year we have not increment the number of the Snipe Class members. However, we are positive about newcomers. We had our National Championship last May and June with 7 boats, which for a small fleet that we are used to have is still a relatively low participation. Yearly the Uruguayan members race a ranking to classify to international championships and keep sailing at least once a month. We also have the National Championship and the Montevideo's week, both championships that we strongly incite international crews to participate. We encourage skippers to teach youngsters by taking them as crew. At least once a year we also try to organize a special regatta to promote the class, where younger sailors do participate. In the last year the Uruguayan participation at international Snipe regattas was intense. We have two silver medals in the last South American Summer Olympic Games and two crews in the top 11 Junior World Championship. We are confronting a turnover of people, a few decided to jump to Olympic classes, other decided to compete in J-24 because in the next two years there will be important international championships in our region. Besides, some

Optimist's sailors decided to continue with Laser or 420. The first ones, because there is a growing and encouraging Laser fleet. Furthermore, they want to keep sailing alone and to avoid the hassle of getting a crew in a very small country. For the 420, the main reason is the eagerness for velocity. Outside the sailing environment there is some competition toward the Snipe class. Especially with Juniors there are some sports like soccer or rugby that take place on weekends and sometimes overlap with a regatta day, special occasions in these sports are more attractive as they give the opportunity to socialize. Moreover, the Snipe Class faces major threats. We have a lot of sailors who stop sailing after Optimist because they cannot afford to buy a more expensive boat or because they do not feel enthusiastic with a specific class; they feel disoriented, do not find someone to sail with, and quit the sport. For the next two years in order to promote the class we expect to: make a regatta with optimist sailors to show the class, taking lessons with the more experience skippers, and hosting more international races on the county. For instance, we want to organize a South American championship and invite international crews to compete with us in the Nationals and other events, such as the Montevideo's week. In addition we expect to incorporate a barbecue or social drink after the race to bonding more, and implemented a new category in our regattas for School Boats where the less experience skippers could have an approach to the class

Future Bids:

2011: North Americans – tbd, possibly US or CAN

South Americans – Cordoba, ARG

2012: North Americans – tbd

2012: WH&O – S America (ARG) will investigate

2013: Jr & Sr Worlds: Rio de Janeiro, BRA

New Business:

Elections:

General Secretary:

Vice Secretary:

An e-mail will be distributed to all NS asking for possible names for these positions by October 15.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm