

Johnny MacCall Wins Western Hemishpere Championship

Argentinian duo finishes ahead of Japanese entry; USA, Brazil and Uruguay round out the first six places.

New Western Hemisphere champions Johnny MacCall and Sergio Ripol, Argentina, won the title at the XVIII Western Hemisphere Championship held on Lake Ypacarai, San Bernadino, Paraguay, October 6th through 14th. Miyuki Kai and Akira Kansaku, Japan, won the last race, and finished in the runner-up position. Defending champions Dave Chapin and Tim Dixon of the U.S. finished third. The fourth and fifth positions went to two Brazilian teams: Ivan Pimentel and Paulo Rebello, Rio, and Paulo Santos and Cassio Ashave, Sao Paulo. Seven nations were represented in the 16-boat entry.

Lake Ypacarai is large and shallow, and is surrounded by low hills. The average depth of less than three meters results in a short steep chop when the wind pipes up. Although light winds had been expected for the championship, spring-time storms brought maximum winds for one race, and all races had moderate to strong breezes, which took a toll on the borrowed equipment used for this "swap boat" regatta.

Eighteen boats were prepared for the expected eight-nation entry: six new boats built in Paraguay for the championship, three borrowed boats from Brazil, three borrowed from Argentina, and six boats which sail regularly in the Paraguayan fleets. These boats were divided into three categories, based on their presumed quality, with each team to draw and sail two boats from each group in the first six races. The final race would be sailed in a boat drawn from the entire lot.



Manolo Otazu, named for Paraguay's grand old man of Snipe sailing, served as Jury boat for the regatta.

All photos by Buzz Lamb

MONDAY

Race 1. Winds of six to eight out of the north/northeast increased steadily during the first race, which became a shakedown of the borrowed equipment, put to a heavy test by the top-notch competition. Kai of Japan led at the end of the first two beats, only to be overtaken at the finish by Johnny MacCall of Argentina. Steve Suddath of the U.S. finished third. Chapin, Pimentel, Santos, and Viera all suffered boat breakdowns.

Race 2. The committee boat left the dock with the postponement flag flying, as the morning wind had died by the time boats were repaired and swapped for the second race. Clouds were forming in the south, and at the start the fleet split with neither side having an advantage in the drifting conditions.

Puffs came in first from the left side of the course, and then became general as the fleet approached the first windward mark, with MacCall again in the lead. As the fleet rounded the mark, the squall moved in, and the wind increased dramatically, sending the entire fleet onto a plane on the reach.

With puffs in excess of 30, the course was changed to two triangles to avoid a dead downwind run. Several boats, including Chapin, were out again with breakdowns. Johnny MacCall finished first again, followed by Julio Labandiera, also of Argentina, with Kai in third.

TUESDAY

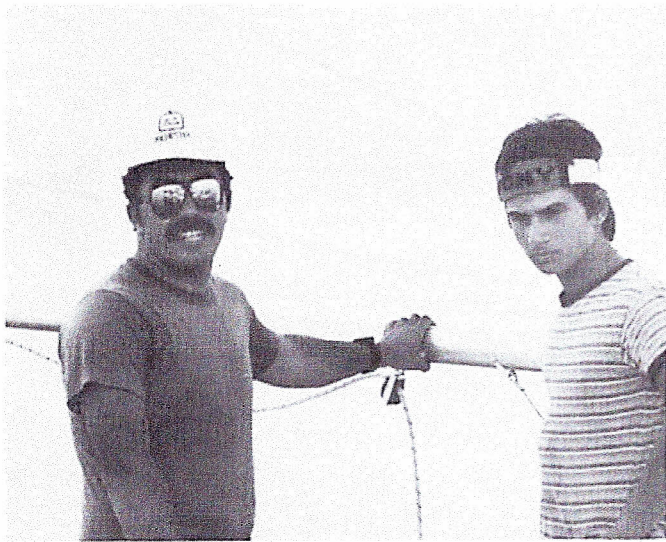
Race 3. Boat repair was the first order, as early morning thunderstorms gradually died away, leaving southerly winds of 12 to 15 at the start. The fleet split again, with the right side having a slight advantage

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE CHAMPIONSHIP

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Country	Finishes	Points	Position
24598	Johnny MacCall/Sergio Ripol	Argentina	1-1-5-4-DNF-1-3	23.7	1
25873	Miyuki Kai/Akira Kansaku	Japan	2-3-6-2-5-3-1	27.4	2
24702	David Chapin/Tim Dixon	U.S.A.	BD-BD-14-1-1-6-5	41.7	3
15235	Ivan Pimentel/Paulo Rebello	Brazil	BD-5-3-7-12-2-2	42.7	4
13504	Paulo Da Silva Santos/Cassio Ashaver	Brazil	BD-6-8-5-2-4-4	48.7	5
24594	Alberto Viera/Christopher Schewe	Uruguay	BD-8-1-6-3-16-8	55.4	6
21671	Julio Labandiera/Pablo Contouris	Argentina	8-2-4-3-9-9-BD	55.7	7
20560	Jeff Lenhart/Tom Devlin	U.S.A.	7-4-2-9-4-12-BD	57	8
22206	Carlos Murguía/José Torre	Uruguay	4-BD-10-8-7-10-7	77	9
24807	Steven & Connie Suddath	U.S.A.	3-9-9-DNF-6-8-11	78.4	10
25077	Kiki Bosch/Shevaun Adcock	Bermudas	6-BD-15-11-8-5-10	82.7	11
20997	Wayne & Beverly Soares	Bermudas	5-10-7-10-13-11-BD	87	12
25161	Minoru Sato/Kazuo Kurogi	Japan	9-BD-12-13-11-7-6	89.7	13
22272	Carlos Gorostiaga/Raul Amigo	Paraguay	BD-7-13-12-10-15-9	97	14
23421	Carlos & Camilo Schaumann	Paraguay	10-BD-11-DNF-15-13-13	110	15
22311	Wijbe Beekhof/Manuel Lopez	Paraguay	BD-11-16-DNF-14-14-12	116	16

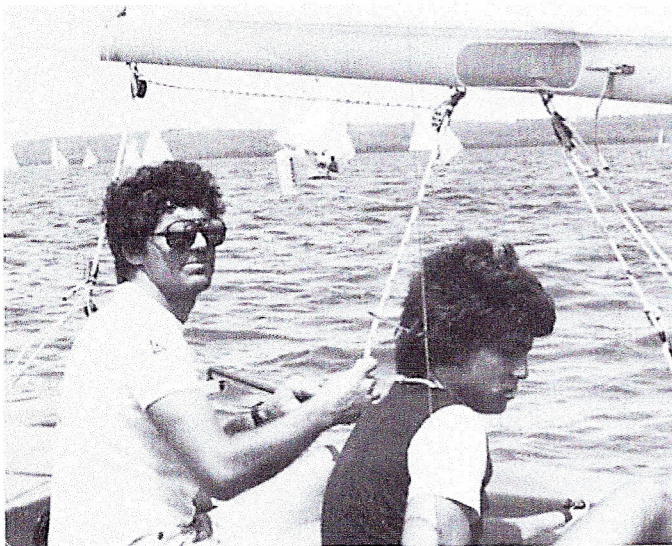
BD = Breakdown points awarded for this race.



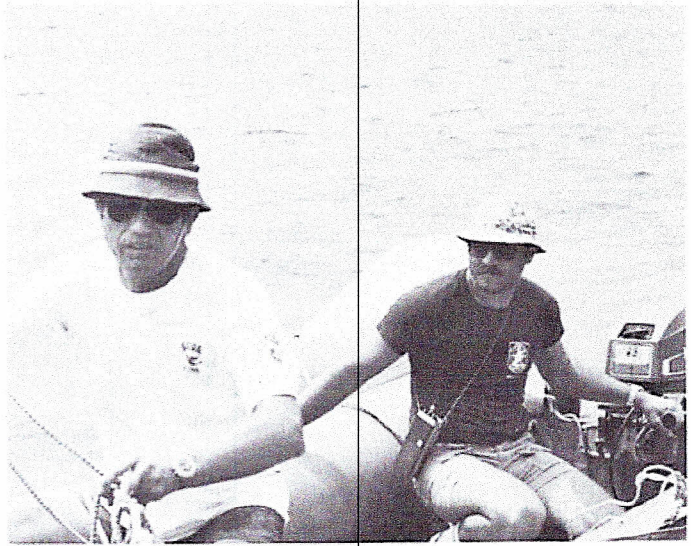
Western Hemisphere Secretary Julio Labandeira and Pablo Con-touris represented Argentina in the regatta.



Commodore Roberto Salvat and Paraguay's National Secretary Johnny Scarpetta before the Opening ceremony.



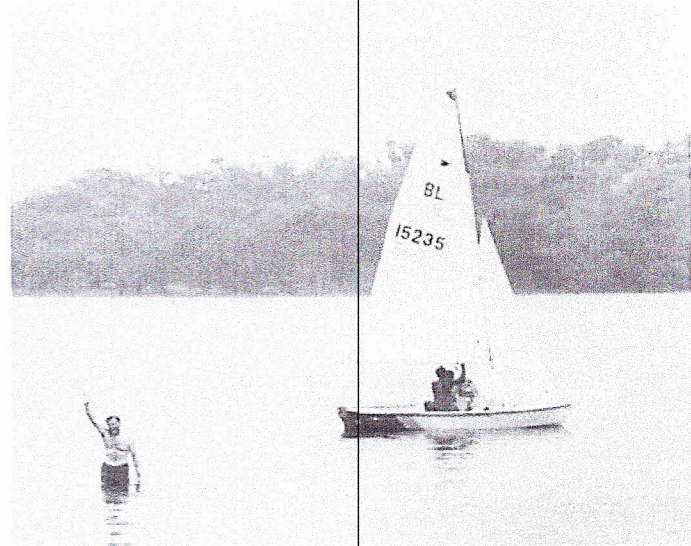
Breakdown! Johnny MacCall and Sergio Ripol drop out of a race, as the fleet sails away.



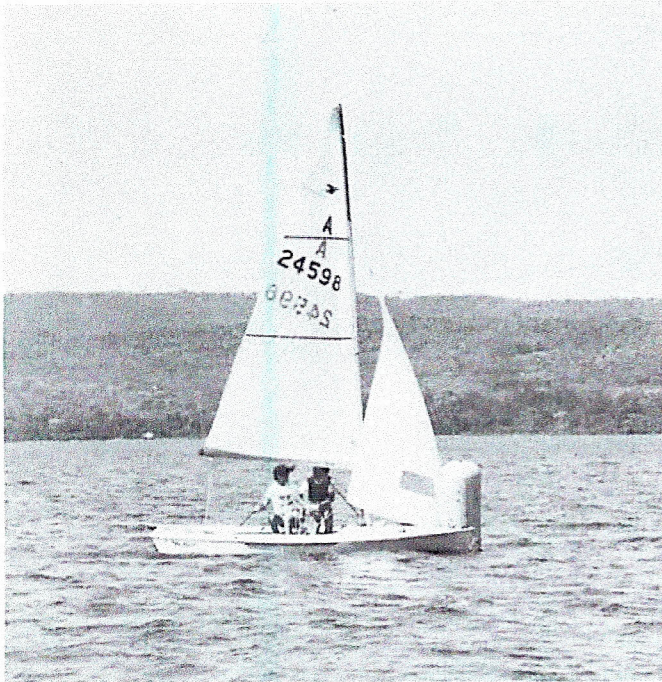
Regatta chairman Bertrand Gayet with Argentina's National Secretary Marcus Mugaburu operated a mark-setting boat.



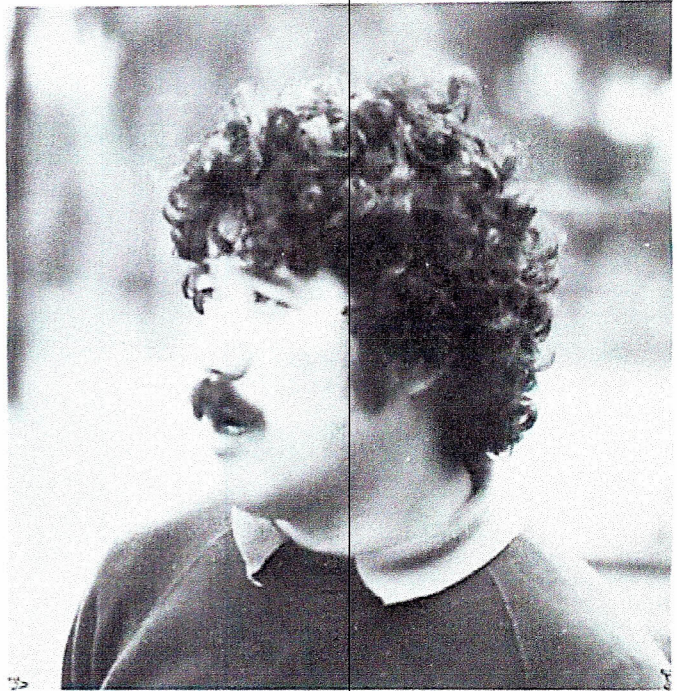
Bermuda's Team with unofficial member Rear Commodore Jerry Thompson. (l to r): Shevaun Adcock, Kiki Bosch, SCIRA Vice Commodore Wayne Soares, Jerry Thompson, and Beverly Soares.



The Commodore demonstrates the depth as Ivan Pimentel, Brazil, adjusts his main. Crews led boats to deep water, attached the rudders, and scrambled aboard for the ride to the course.



The winners. Johnny MacCall and Sergio Ripol shown leading a race with no competition in sight.



Second Place Miyuki Kai was a threat all the way to the finish of the last race.

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when the boats converged at the mark. Lenhart led at the end of the first two beats, but going for the finish, he elected to cover the Argentine and Brazilian boats, rather than Uruguay's top-notch junior sailor Alberto Viera. Viera finished first. Lenhart second, and Ivan Pimentel third.

Race 4. The wind direction and course were the same as for the morning race, and Chapin, Kai, and Labandiera led the first triangle in that order. As the fleet came onto the second beat the wind picked up into the twenties. Suddath had his rudder pop up and was out of the race. Schaumann and Beekhof, both of Paraguay were far back and elected not to finish in the heavy going.

With boats spread out on different legs of the course there was no opportunity to shift marks in response to the windshift which turned the last leg of the course more and more into a one-tack beat. Those who rounded early had to tack back to cover those who rounded later resulting in a dramatic finish which still left Chapin in the lead, Kai second, and Labandiera third.

THURSDAY

Race 5. The wind was again out of the north at 10 to 12, and very shifty. The right side was favored as the wind shifted more northerly throughout the race, although the windward mark was moved on the second beat to compensate for the shift. Chapin lead all the way, finishing with a horizon job over Paulo Santos, Brazil, in second, and Viera, who had another good race, in third. Johnny MacCall finished with a

DNF, having dropped out at the end of the second beat.

Race 6. The wind, still shifty, was light, and a little more northerly for the afternoon race. Johnny MacCall lead at every mark, but Kai, who went right on the last beat threatened to lift into the finish in first, before a shift gave the lead back to MacCall. Ivan Pimentel finished second, with Kai in third.

FRIDAY

Race 7. Johnny MacCall had been favored to win after placing first in the first two races, but if Kai won the last race Johnny had to finish fourth or better to win the championship. Chapin also had an outside chance at the top spot.

The wind was heavy for the start of the last race: 18 to 20, and still from the north. With the wind both shifty and puffy, Ivan Pimentel grabbed an early lead, which he held for most of the race. Kai, who showed an uncanny ability to read the wind, charged into a photo finish to win over Pementel on the finish line. Johnny MacCall managed to hold off Paulo Santos, finishing third. Dave Chapin had not been lucky on the final draw, and faded from second at the first mark to a fifth place finish.

General chairman for the regatta was Bertrand Gayet, with special help from Paraguay's National Secretary, Johnny Scarpetta. Horacio Garcia Pastori was Race Chairman, Pedro Sisti was SCIRA Representative, and Ralph Swanson served

as chairman of the protest committee.

SOCIAL SCENE

Paraguay is a land with two languages, and it seems to a visitor that Spanish is used for business, while Guarani is for fun. As an example of this dual nature of the country the visitors at the Western Hemispheres were treated to a regatta where business and hard work were always tempered with good nature and good fun. Contestants were guests in private homes in the pretty little resort town of San Bernardino on the shores of Lake Ypacarai.

The traditional flag raising was preceded by a blessing of the fleet, and by rousing marches played by Paraguay's Marine band. A picnic lunch on the lawn of Yacht Club Lago Azule followed. Contestants then began their feverish preparation of boats for the first race, as the rest of the guests watched folklore dances performed by the Municipal Ballet.

Wednesday was a lay-day with sightseeing and shopping in Asuncion, followed by a cocktail party at the Yacht and Golf Club on the Paraguay River. Other planned activities included a traditional barbecue and sing along around a bon fire on the beach by the lake. The final banquet under a huge tent at Lago Azule was beautifully decorated, and contestants were treated to an unusual fashion show — bathing suits and furs! Which seemed to make a hit particularly with Alberto from Uruguay. He received a special trophy — a kiss from the prettiest model.