

Copa Desafio Ecuador
Salinas Yacht Club – Fleet 405
Guayaquil, Ecuador
January 23–24, 2005

Pos	Sail #	Skipper	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	6R	T
1	14671	Juan Santos	Juan Rafael Santos, Jorge Norero	1	1	2	4	1	(19\ DNS)	9
2	14676	Carlos Luis Lecaro	Jimmy Pazmiño, Francisco Soriano	-9	3	3	3	3	1	13
3	11365	Julio Vélez	Kiko Quintero, Quique Granja	5	2	1	(7)	2	6	16
4	15094	Tito Plaza	Juan Carlos Plaza, Ángel Lema	3	4	(15)	5	8	2	22
5	14675	Olaf Dick	Ada Dick, Gustavo Cordovez	4	(16)	4	10	4	4	26
6	14461	Mario Buckup	Telma Buckup, Alberto Maspons	8	(19\ DSQ)	5	6	6	5	30
7	14405	Lars Dick	Carlos Pérez, Luis Martínez	(12)	11	6	2	5	8	32
8	15150	Paco Solá	Paco Solá Medina, Joao Casals	11	10	14	1	(19\ OCS)	3	39
9	14674	Alfredo Ochoa	Benji López, Samuel Herrera	6	(17)	9	12	9	7	43
10	15095	Johnny Meira	Juan Manuel Meira, María de Romero	10	8	8	9	(19\ OCS)	10	45
11	14379	Jaime Calderón	Santiago García, Karla Villena	7	13	7	14	7	(19\ OCS)	48
12	14160	Marcelo León	Pedro Vélez, Ole Emick	13	7	(17)	13	12	9	54
13	11928	Sebastián Herrera	Carlos Drouet, Manuel Granja	2	5	11	(19\ DNC)	19\ DNC	19\ DNC	56
14	4845	John Bennet	Pedro Soares, Mauro Pannunzio	14	12	13	(15)	10	12	61
15	15152	Nelson Schmitt	Cecilia Jahnel, Arturo Iturralde	17	6	(18)	16	13	11	63
16	15096	Xavier Monge	Cristina Monge, Gustavo Maenz	(16)	14	16	11	11	13	65
17	14845	Torsten Boilesen	Rasmus Jorgensen, Carlos Bomeisel	18	15	12	8	(19\ DNF)	19\ DNS	72
18	14099	Miguel Plaza	Juan José Ferreti	15	9	10	(19\ DNC)	19\ DNC	19\ DNC	72



After the South American Championships finished, we were all feeling very happy with the results, having made 1,2 and 3 for Brasil. 3 days of strong, shifty winds allowed the local teams to take charge of most of the races.

During the awards ceremony an idea to start a country challenge was discussed and by the end of the happy hour (see photo attached) the Salinas Yacht Club was established as the host for the event. In Brasil, we started getting our teams together, as we settled for the weekend of January 23 & 24 for the first challenge. 4 teams from Brazil took off, headed by Mario Buckup , with our Commodore Torsten Bojlesen, Nelson Schmitt and myself eager to get to know this famous club.

Nothing had prepared us though for the welcome we received and the absolutely fantastic Salinas Yacht Club. We ate shrimp in all kinds of formats and spices, and experienced every drink on the menu. Saturday night saw us at a party out on the deck overlooking the yachts, and making our famous brazilian Caipirinhas. By midnight I was presented with the Salinas Yacht Club Commodore's tie, for I insisted he take it off. Karaoke followed and then we partied so much that the earth literally shook!

At 2:00am right after the tremor, waves starting pounding the beach right in front of the window were 3 of us were sleeping. Just a few hours before this was a flat pond... Tsunami.... was one of the words that flashed through our minds!

On Sunday the Sun and the wind continued to provide absolutely perfect conditions and by Monday most of the crews were ready to quit their jobs and move to this paradise. One of our most delightful parts was being towed behind the boats for shark bait.

Oh, the sailing ??? Well, that is another story... Those Equatorian guys really do know how to sail!! They made 1,2 3 and many more before Mario managed to squeeze in on the results board. The races were all very close because the boats are very equal. Nickels is standard and we in Brazil sail Allens (I guess we have to find some excuse for the licking!). Juan Santos came away with the title, having won most of the races.

I guess all we can say is that this format of partying, I mean sailing, is what the Lightning Class is all about.

Let's do more of it !! Thank you Paco, Juan, Carlos Luis, Xavier and all of your families for providing such a great weekend. Next year we will meet again somewhere in South America. We will let you all know, and hopefully other countries will participate.

See you in Chile in November

John Bennett

It was truly wonderful to have our Brazilian friends over. It had been decades since we had been able to get together, as distances do not make sailing among us easy. We are delighted that they had a great experience in our SYC, this is something we take great pride in! On a personal note, I was very fortunate to have convinced my dad to sail with me. We finally settled on him crewing and calling the shots. We were slow on the first day, so we got behind, but on the last day we managed a first and a third, which made us feel a whole lot better, despite that darned OCS in the fifth race. There's lots to be done in South America to recover the shine that the Lightning Class has always had. This regatta, as well as the 2004 South Americans in Brazil, proved that it can be done if we put our hearts to it. The 2005 South Americans and Worlds in Chile will be a significant turning point for us too. See you all there!

Paco Sola