

Pan American Games
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
July 21–30, 2007

Pos	Team	NOC Code	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Medal Race	Total Pts	Net Pts
1	Alberto Gonzalez Diego Gonzalez Cristian Herman	CHI	1	1	(8\ OCS)	1	4	3	2	2	22	14
2	David Starck Jody Starck Bill Faude	USA	3	(4)	1	3	3	2	3	4	23	19
3	Claudio Biekarck Gunnar Ficker Marcelo Silva	BRA	2	3	4	2	(5)	1	1	6	24	19
4	Juan Santos Garces Juan Santos Dillon Sebastian Herrera Castro	ECU	5	2	3	(6)	2	6	5	10	39	33
5	Richard Walsh Jim Cameron Alisia Cameron	CAN	6	(7)	2	7	1	7	4	8	42	35
6	Jose Bettini Marcos Lamas Diego Gneri	ARG	4	(6)	6	4	6	5	6	-	37	31
7	Juan Sebastian Higuera Juan Camilo Bustos Nicolas Deeb Orjuela	COL	7	5	5	5	(9\ DNF)	4	7	-	41	43



CHI #1101 = #1!

A Pan American Perspective

By Bill Faude

(AKA #27, the 27th potential crew member the Starcks asked to sail in the Pan Am trials before one accepted.)

As I write this, we've been home from Brazil for 10 days. In that time, I've gotten warm again. I haven't needed my magic wool hat (the one that was knitted for me by Audrey Mattesson and recovered and returned to me after capsizes after being in 2 lakes and the Pacific Ocean. I've been in three sailboat races, haven't touched a line in any of them and we've won all three! My 2.5-year-old has taken permanent possession of 'her' silver medal. She occasionally lets me look at it—if she can be interrupted in her quest to pulverize it on the mudroom floor. One more thing: I miss the Lighting family we were with in Brazil.

We learned a lot participating in an Olympic-style event. If you'd like, you can go to www.lightninginrio.blogspot.com and read a little bit about what it felt like to me to be in the middle of that amazing event. The USOC and US Sailing gave us incredible support. We had very diligent coaching. We had an incredible trainer. We were surrounded with security. It was fantastic to bond with our teammates on the US Sailing team—former Olympic medalists, former Rolex winners, future gold medalists. It was incredible to sail a regatta among all that hoopla...speaking of which, we even became friends with both men's and women's US hoop team members. All that was amazing.

But perhaps even a more amazing thing than anything about the actual sailing in the games was being a Lightning Sailor in the games. I never understood how important—who wonderful being in the Pan American Games is to the International Lightning Class. I was President of ILCA for two years. For 10+ years before that and at every major meeting before and during that time someone, Jim Carson, Larry MacDonald Sr. Dave Sprague or someone with equally good perspective on International Sailing would make a report on the outlook for the Lightning staying in the Pan American Games. It was generally pretty iffy. We had 6 or 7 countries interested in sailing in the games. The Pan American Sailing Organization wanted more countries to participate. If we didn't get more countries to sail, we'd be in trouble. We were always told how critical Pan American status was to the Lightning in South America. I've got to tell you, at that time, those guys sounded like a broken record to me. We would never really lose the Lightning in the Pan Ams. Would we?

My gosh I was so wrong. Maybe the only reason they sail Lightnings in those games is that those folks worked so hard to keep the boat in those games. My Lightning friends from different countries won medals because of the behind-the-scenes work those games. Andy and Bill and Heather. Larry and Julie-Marie and Trevor. Matt and Sean and Steve. Then for one games the Lighting was actually out of the games. And Brian who won the US trials didn't get to go. I had no idea what a complete bummer that was until two weeks ago. My advice:

1. Hug one of the people who've always understood...and has put in the time to keep our beloved square boats in the games.

2. Think hard about whether you know a sailor from Mexico who might like to sail the Southern Circuit next Winter. It would be fantastic to have a Lightning with MEX on the main next time in Puerto Villarta in 2011. I've already got two Snipe Sailors from Paraguay who are prime candidates and I'm workin them.

Every night in the blog, there was a section called "The Neatest Thing That Happened Today." It was dedicated every night to Sabrina Starck and Camryn Faude. I'm going to end this article with a short list of the Neatest things that happened during our whole Pan American Games experience.

- Matt Fisher showing me his Pan American Games gold medal from Havana.
- Watching Nelson Schmidt measure the Lightnings. The guy knows what he's doing. He came down from Sao Palo with just a few days notice—because the Lightning Class needed him. I know he burned up the long distance lines with Bill Clausen before he came down. He made the process fun too.
- Getting to the beach at Pt. Abino late on a Friday night after a week of work—before a weekend of practicing—and having Julie and Camryn already be there.
- Larry and Debbie and Michael and Jody and Bob and Sarah around the campfire that night.
- Coming into the venue in Rio one morning and running into David Sprague...who had flown down to Rio from Toronto just to attend the kind of meeting he's been attending for years. The kind of meeting that keeps the Lightning in the games. He stayed in Brazil about 12 hours—and flew about 25. He didn't leave before he sent an email to his office from right there in the boat park—we needed to know who'd had a good first day at the Lightning Worlds.
- Surviving (narrowly) a training run from Key Biscayne over the causeway to Coral Reef Yacht Club on Memorial Day weekend while we were practicing. Mental note to self: next time, carbon fiber bike!
- Getting an email from Matt Burrige during the games and realizing that people were watching...and rooting for us.
- Watching Tito and Diego and Cristian get their gold medals our of the corner of my eye—and being proud of our friends.
- Getting a hug from Claudio, Gunnar and Silva after getting their medals and being proud of our friends.
- Watching Richard Walsh, Jim and Alicia Cameron of team Canada win a race handily after sailing a very brave first beat up a side of the course we were curious about but didn't think would pan out.
- Going up wind with Juan Santos and team on a practice day and remembering that he goes pretty fast. Then meeting his Son on shore. That was neat.
- Ice cold Kwat: Official beverage of every meal for 13 days in the Pan Am Village cafeteria.
- Waking up very early one morning, kicking the cobwebs around and figuring out I was still in the village. Then being psyched that nobody in the first 26 people my teammates asked said yes.