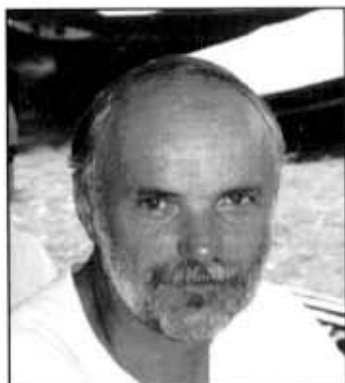


# 9th World Youth Championship in Neuchâtel, 1994

Commentaries and interviews of the members of the Organizing Committee.

JULY



Seventeen crews from ten nations sailed the 9th World Youth Championship in front of the city of Neuchâtel in Switzerland. Just one regret, the defection of both announced crews from Colombia.

Thanks to the connivance of the wind, the six races have been sailed, and I'm sure that each one of the competitors has returned to his or her homeland with an unforgettable image of this championship.

The I.L.C.A. Swiss District and the "Cercle de la Voile de Neuchâtel" took up the challenge to organize this great event in Switzerland. This was only possible with the help of our sponsors, our faithful Swiss Lightning family, several European Lightning owners and the hard work of all those who have had a hand (or more) in this organization.

**Sincere thanks to all of you !!!**

I wish that this event could contribute to keep the Lightning alive in Switzerland for a long time.

**Jacques Perret**

President, Organizing Committee  
President, Cercle de la Voile de Neuchâtel  
Commodore, Swiss District

A Junior World Championship, in Switzerland, in July 1994, on our lake, LAC DE NEUCHÂTEL, in front of our town, NEUCHÂTEL, in front of our harbour, PORT DU NID-DU-CRO, in front of our BAR DU CERCLE DE LA VOILE DE NEUCHÂTEL.

That's what Jacques Perret, our Lightning Commodore, shouted when he entered the Bar du Cercle de la Voile de Neuchâtel, one night, during winter 1993.

He added very softly "I just find a very nice and easy job for you, you big bunch of drinking sailors."

As former Vice-President and elderly Lightning sailor, I thought that Jacques was, as usual, being smart. But before I started to say something, he speaks and we heard, "Claude, you will be the "President d'honneur."

For a while the Bar was completely quiet and we all heard the bells of the cows on the mountain behind Neuchâtel.

Then I just say "sante" and very upset, swallowed my big beer at once. Suddenly, all the other Lightning fellows drinking beers shouted, "Claude, we go with you out on the town."

If I knew, I will not be there!"



**Claude Lambelet**



My impressions of this Championship as phantom chief of the Race Committee are very poor, as unfortunately I was not able to organize these races to their ends.

In fact, a few days before the first race, I heard from my boss that I could not get the time free for it, as it was planned. Fortunately, in my misfortune, a very skillful member of our club could take over the organization of the races from Monday on; i.e. for the main part of the Championship. Gilbert Perrenoud, this is his name, made a very good job in difficult weather conditions, as it is usually on our lake.

I remember the first race, where the crews were still sailing upwind to the first mark. Meanwhile, the race committee had cancelled the race 30 minutes previously, but no crews returned to the start, as those young crews, usually sailing on the sea, were not familiar with the change of winds that oblige committees to change courses rapidly.

Not only Gilbert made a good job, but also another Gilbert - that one you all know, as he is also ILCA Vice-President for the Swiss District - joined the former on the committee boat, and was very helpful...

We will not forget the enthusiasm of our three "young" guys, who also made a very professional job on and off the water. I am speaking of our Swiss crew, during the 1978 Lightning Youth World Championship in Peru, Gilles, Joël and Yann.

Good grief !!

**Jean-Claude DuPasquier**  
Past European Champion  
on Numana

Not only a sharp sailing competition but also a very enjoyable experience of life.

As long as I can remember, when we were asked in 1978 to represent Switzerland in the 1st World Youth Championship in Peru; Joel, Gilles and myself could not imagine that (at the age of 18 years) this experience would leave such an unforgettable print in our minds.

In fact, all of a sudden, we left our cold Swiss winter for a very hot Peruvian summer. . . so far from home. Regattas, friendship with other crews and the discovery of a new country was really delightful.

Committed this year in the organization of the 9th Lightning World Youth Championship 1994, we trust that the new crew generation has had as much pleasure to race on the lake of Neuchâtel and to discover Switzerland as we had to discover South America in the late seventies.

No doubt, that every crew member will keep in his heart all his life a personal feeling or souvenir of his own experience in Switzerland . . . competing on the lake, enjoying himself in the bars of the old Neuchâtel, or still digesting the cheese fondue up the mountains.

And remember that this year Brazil won the finals of the soccer World Cup but finished third behind the new World Youth Champions 1994: the Canadians.

Long life to the Lightning World family!

**Joël von Allmen**  
**Gilles de Coulon**  
**Yann DuPasquier**





How to organize the rescue and the security during a championship ?

First you have to find enough people and boats. The boats must be in very good condition and safe to be able to withstand the strong storms coming on our lake during summer.

Before the start of the championship we had all the people and boats we needed. One of the boats was lent by the motorboat importer from our harbour. But suddenly, due to harassment of custom and lake police, the boat promised was not available.

Now the problem was to find another boat quickly and I finally found one at the yacht club based at the other end of our lake. But when I went over there to bring it back to our place, the boat was not there. I had to phone, to go back home, and to come later to at least receive the boat and reach the championship course just before the start of the first race.

That was one of the episodes, among others, that lead to the preparation of a World Championship.

**Jean-Pierre Monnier**

You may know that in a Junior World Lightning Championship you can find female and male skippers and crews. Ok, you will not see that very often in Italy.

Dragooned in the organization of this championship, Jacques Perret, our Chairman, told me one day that as some female were racing, they would be better accommodated by the club members than to stay at the club dormitory.

It is with great pleasure, that I agreed to take them to my home, situated six miles from the Cercle de la Voile de Neuchâtel.

When the Greek crew came in, we found out that they were two young ladies and not one as expected. As they will stay in one room, I still have one place free for the US young lady.

At night, I met these young ladies and we put all the luggage in my small car, a Peugeot 106. But suddenly, before we leave, a fourth young lady, a Canadian, came in and told me that she would rather come with us than stay alone at the Chairman's home.

Ok, why not, it will be hard to say no and disappoint her.

So, I tried to put all the girls in my small car, the Canadian one in front as she is the tallest. But when I had a look at all the luggage, I almost fainted. Finally, we were all in, luggage all over and on knees, too.

Fortunately, the Swiss police were not in the country road this night as I drove home very, very slowly.

**Françoise Amos**

Claude: I heard that you were involved in the Lightning Junior World Championship, what was your job?

Blaise: With Marcel, we were in charge of driving the boat "Sarcelle" a 40 foot Pilot Boat of Lake de Neuchâtel, just following the races each day with crew parents and officials.

Claude: What did you do in the "Sarcelle"?



Marcel: I am the Pilot and Blaise the seaman, and we have also "Agathe the Labrador", in case somebody drink too much and fall overboard.

We had also trouble because each day was different. Sometimes the passengers were eating lots and not drinking enough and another day it was the contrary. We were very often running out of food or drink, but we are still in good shape.

Claude: What kind of officials were on your boat?

Marcel: Speaking of Lightning officials, we had the great pleasure to have aboard during two races, LARRY MACDONALD, the Class representative, who was trying sometimes to give us some orders because he was thinking that we were going to cruise across the race course. As you know, we don't speak English and, as far as I know, Mr. MacDonald don't do French. So, it was quite exciting, but anyway, as it is not the first time we do this job, nothing happens and we didn't cruise the race course.

Blaise: I just like to say that Marcel and myself had a lot of pleasure to be with all these talented young Lightning skippers from all over the World.

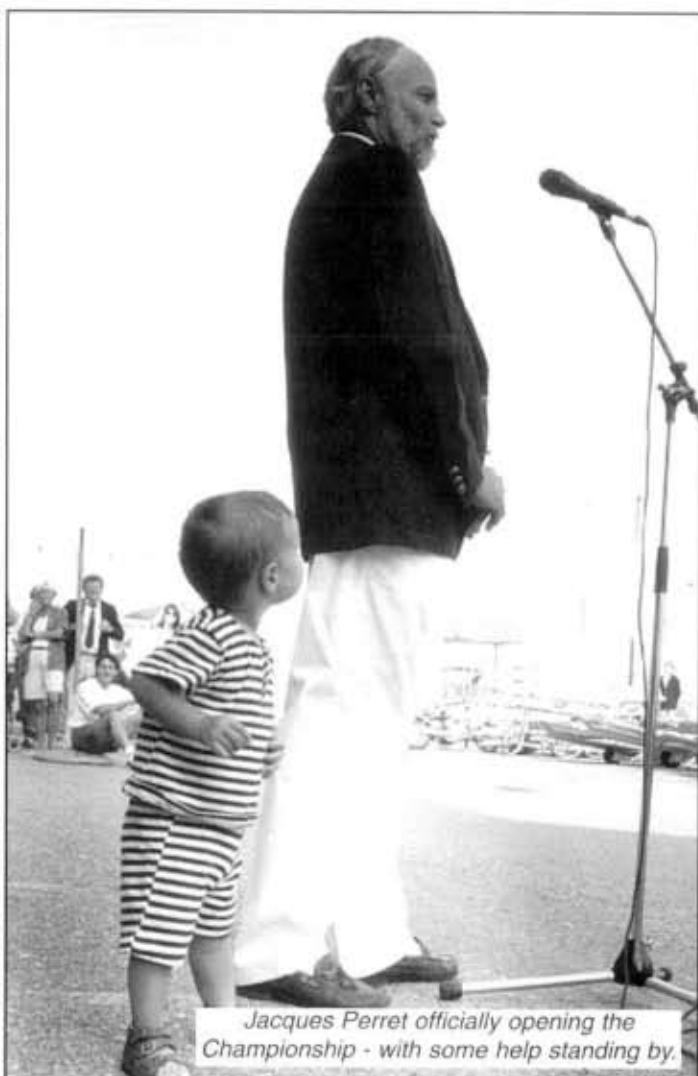
**An interview with the Sarcelle crew by Claude Lambelet**



The opening ceremony -  
flag raising and  
national anthems.



The racing begins.



Jacques Perret officially opening the  
Championship - with some help standing by.



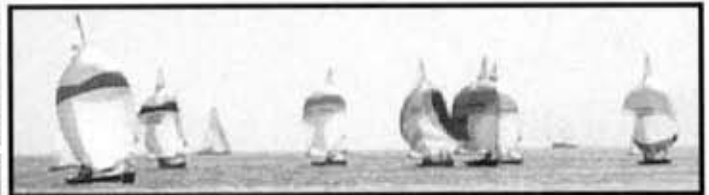
The rotation draw.



A social mixer.

Photos: Joël von Allmen and Audrey Matteson

*The racing continued every day.*



*A social event -  
a hamburger party  
at the early century  
residence of  
Jean-Claude  
DuPasquier*



*Italy, Switzerland, Canada, and Ireland*

*Photos: Jacques Perret, Joël and Audrey*



Camaraderie, hamburgers and the World Cup!



Ireland



Chile, Italy



Brazil, Italy!



Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil



United States, Canada



Greece, Canada

Photos: Audrey

An interesting trip for the visiting Finns, Irish and Americans led by the Urs Wyler family and Margrit Graf into the Bernese Alps above Interlaken....



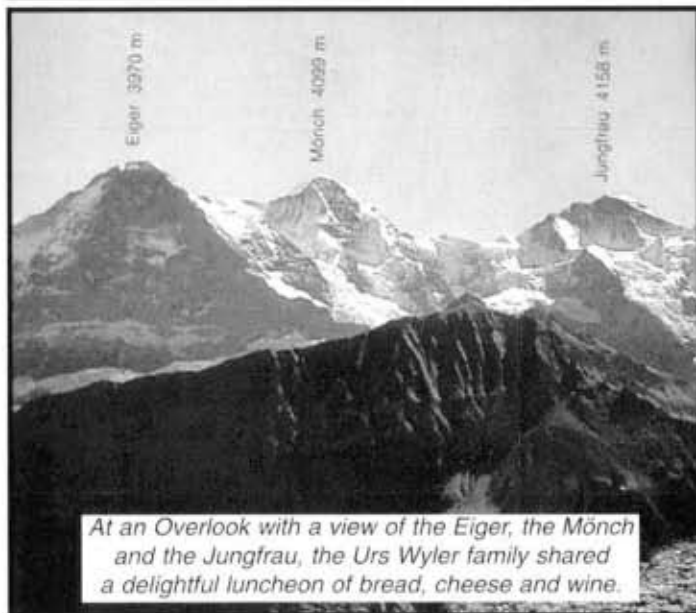
where we took the train to the top to an area called Schynige Platte, elevation 6,811 ft.



Eiger 3270 m

Mönch 4099 m

Jungfrau 4158 m

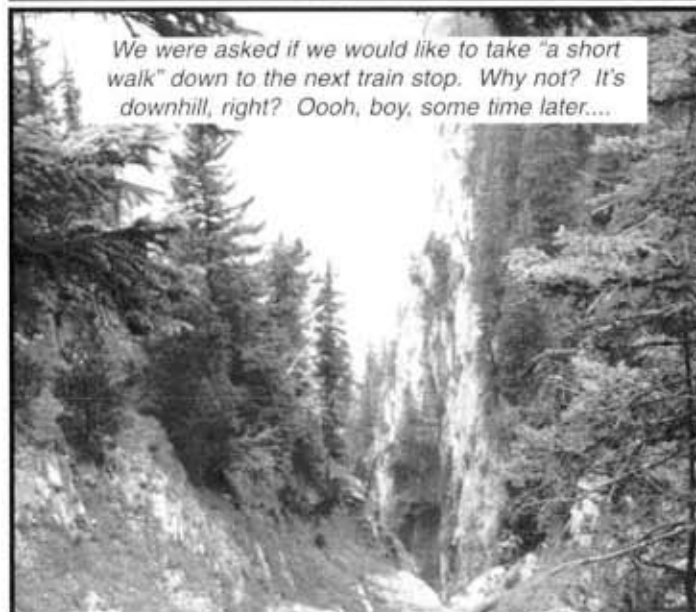


At an Overlook with a view of the Eiger, the Mönch and the Jungfrau, the Urs Wyler family shared a delightful luncheon of bread, cheese and wine.

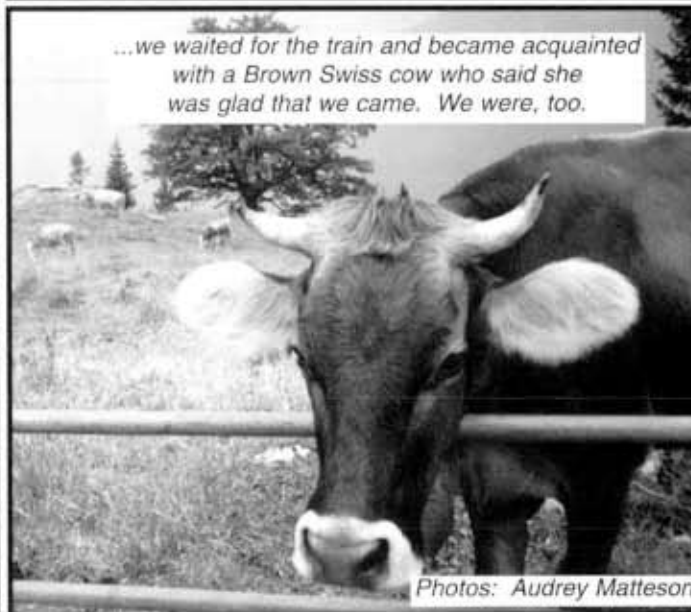


In the Alpine Garden, among the 500 species of native alpine flora identified, we naturally had to find the Edelweiss.

We were asked if we would like to take "a short walk" down to the next train stop. Why not? It's downhill, right? Oooh, boy, some time later....



...we waited for the train and became acquainted with a Brown Swiss cow who said she was glad that we came. We were, too.



Photos: Audrey Matteson

# Youth Worlds

by Marty Essig

Fleet 118, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



Jacques Perret presenting the World Youth Trophy to the winners : from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, (l to r) Todd Fedyszyn, Marty Essig, skipper, and Tory Crowder.

Photo: Audrey

Seventeen teams from ten nations assembled in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, to compete for the biennial World Youth Lightning Championships. Neuchâtel is a very beautiful town nestled in the foothills of the Jura Mountains in western Switzerland on Lac Neuchâtel, a 30 km long lake with a width of 7 km. For the two days preceding the racing, including the practice race, there was no wind at all on the lake which prompted my crew of Tory Crowder and Todd Fedyszyn to wonder "are we gonna have a regatta?"

As far as accommodations went, the sailors slept at the Yacht Club. This arrangement allowed the competitors to mix and fraternize which resulted in a lot of new friendships and generally led to a feeling of camaraderie. Due to space limitations, the organizers moved the Swiss team, one US team and us to a different place. Our new accommodations were quieter and we were about five minutes away on foot from the Yacht Club. The females in the regatta, including Tory, were housed at a Yacht club member's house.

For the first official day of racing, the Race Committee had to abandon two races halfway up the first beat because the wind died. Fortunately, we squeaked in a triangle-windward race. Plaza-Gonzalez-Baquerizo of Ecuador won, followed by Horton-Dayton-Heisler of USA, ourselves, the Swiss team of Perret-Girod-Robert, and Ruthenberg-Comber-Schierz of Brazil. Race two was held with a thunderstorm causing erratic wind shifts which we led from start to finish with Ruthenberg of Brazil following. On the last downwind, the wind piped up producing some wild planes and dumped Lightnings.

The Swiss people treated us with superb hospitality. One night we had a hamburger party while watching the "never-ending" World Cup finale of Italy vs. Brazil with serious support from both Brazilian and Italian teams. Another night the hosts organized a trip up into the hills and showed us real Swiss culture where the competitors were treated to cheese fondue in a ski lodge.

Ruthenberg of Brazil notched an ace in the third race with Horton, ourselves and Thomas-Paullin-Wardwell following. The fourth race was won by Plaza (Ecuador) with Thomas (USA), Klemperer (Ecuador), ourselves and Ruthenberg (Brazil) following. After this race we still retained our lead and more importantly, with four races constituting a drop race, we were the team that presently had the lowest drop race, a 4th. Our strategy for the next two races was that we had two chances at a "damn good race" - we could afford a really deep race if we got a first. The fifth race proved to be the steadiest, strongest race with 15 knots from the south while the waves built to their highest at three feet as they traveled along the expanse of Lac Neuchâtel. We ended up winning this one with Plaza (Ecuador) and Ruthenberg (Brazil) behind. The team led by Thomas (USA) was in the running the whole race until unfortunately their outhaul blew on the last reach.

At this point in order to win the regatta we couldn't let Brazil win the last race, and if they did win, we would have to be above 4th place. The winning strategy was to keep them behind. We started under the Brazilian team and managed to cover effectively from the start, keeping a loose cover the whole race. Horton (USA) led while Ruthenberg (Brazil) hit the left corner and was last at the weather mark. But this didn't shake their spirits. In a matter of two reaching legs in 5 knots of wind, the Brazilian three passed 12 boats and were 5th rounding the leeward mark, reminding everyone that they hadn't rolled over and died - a superb performance! In the end the race was deservedly won by the team led by Thomas (USA), followed by Plaza (Ecuador), Horton (USA) and ourselves.

After 2 years of training for this regatta with support from our friends, families, our Lightning fleet, our Yacht Club and the Class, we finally attained our goal. We were all extremely happy and relieved that it was over with and are very grateful to all our supporters.

One of the most important aspects of this year's Youth World Champs was the camaraderie within the youth sailors. Everyone staying at the Yacht Club together and going out the last night after the presentations meant that many lasting friendships were made. We hope that in the future at a regatta we will see each other and joke about the wonderful time we had in Neuchâtel at the Youth World Lightning Championships.

We would like to thank the Swiss for organizing such a wonderful event, and all the youth Lightning sailors from abroad for making the trip. We fully appreciate the great difficulties which the organizers had to face. Boats had to be collected from all corners of Europe, from Greece and Sicily in the south to Finland in the north. To put it in perspective for North Americans, it meant collecting boats from Florida, California, and Nova Scotia. All boats were in very good condition resulting in only a few minor breakdowns.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the ILCA for having the foresight to initiate and support this youth event.



Photos: Joël and Audrey



And finally, the silver.



Gilbert Despland, ILCA Vice President, Switzerland, speaks to everyone in French.



Larry MacDonald, Sr., ILCA Vice President, Canada, speaks to them in Canadian.



Who is this man?



Jacques Perret presenting appreciation mementos to the International Jury from (l to r) Ireland, Finland, Canada and Switzerland.



Just one team. an example of the youth we are so proud of, the third place winners, from Brazil, (r to l) Bruno, skipper, Peter and André.



We're all here to tell you that it was a great experience.

# Youth World Championship 1994

Lac de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, July 16-21, 1994

## 17 boats, 6 races - 1 throwout

17 boats, 6 races - 1 throwout								total
1.	Essig, Crowder, Fedyszyn (Canada)	3	1	3	4	1	4	12
2.	Plaza, Gonzalez, Baquerizo (Ecuador)	1	dnf	8	1	2	2	14
3.	Ruthenberg, Comber, Schierz (Brazil)	5	2	1	5	3	6	16
4.	Horton, Dayton, Heisler (United States)	2	4	2	dsq	6	3	17
5.	Thomas, Paullin, Wardwell (United States)	16	5	5	2	8	1	21
6.	Perez, Gomez, Guerrero (Chile)	8	6	11	14	5	7	37
7.	Whately, Hungria Prado, Buckup (Brazil)	10	8	7	8	7	8	38
8.	Guglielmo, Prinzivalli, Montalto (Italy)	11	3	12	10	9	9	42
9.	Klemperer, Gonzalez, Moller (Ecuador)	12	dnf	4	3	11	13	43
10.	Bordino, Agidin, Bottino (Argentina)	9	9	9	7	14	10	44
11.	del Solar, Oxley, Mayer (Chile)	17	dsq	15	6	4	5	47
12.	Perret, Girod, Robert (Switzerland)	4	12	17	12	10	15	53
13.	Marino, Linares, Coronello (Italy)	6	dsq	6	13	12	16	53
14.	Tsarouhis, Kosmadopoulos, Krallis (Greece)	14	7	12	11	13	11	55
15.	Vines, Roach, Leger (Canada)	15	10	10	9	15	12	56
16.	Killops, Martin, Bridges (Ireland)	7	dnf	14	15	16	14	66
17.	Peristeriotis, Paris, Peristeriotis (Greece)	13	11	16	dnf	dns	dns	76



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# Youth Worlds

By Miguel Plaza, Jr.



*Runner-Up World Youth Champions, from Guayaquil, Ecuador, (l to r) José Gonzalez, Juan Baquerizo, and Miguel Plaza, Jr.*

Now that the adrenalin flow has dropped down to normal, I would like to share with you our experiences and thoughts on this very special sailing event.

To start with, we consider ourselves lucky just to have been able to participate. If you think about it, do you know of any other class holding international world youth championships? alternating countries in Europe, North America and South America? without interruption for nine occasions? requiring approximately twenty competitive boats lent by hyper-generous class members, (willing to give their treasured boats to teenagers which they have never seen before?). In this particular championship in Switzerland, some boats were borrowed from Finland, Greece and Italy to round up the required number. How about that for class effort and support!! I am sure you will agree with us that we were lucky; very lucky, in fact, since this was our second participation.

We specially remember the experience of sharing one full week with friends from such distant places as Greece, Chile, Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., Brasil, Italy, Argentina and of course La Suisse. For future junior participants, don't be afraid if you don't speak French, Portuguese, Greek, Italian, Spanish or English. You'll communicate very well with everyone; I still don't know how, but it is true.

The sailing... I would say that it was very competitive, aggressive, high level, clean; in short, a good championship. The wind did not want to show up at the beginning of the series and for a while it had us all worried. It was a real test of patience for the Race Committee. However, the wind got better as the week progressed, to the satisfaction of all parties. We sailed all six races in rather light winds, with the exception of race No. 2 where the wind picked up to 20+ as a result of a storm that came out of

nowhere, capsized boats, including ours, and disappeared shortly afterwards leaving us behind with a turtled boat and mixed feelings, as we had never tipped over before.

Regarding the positions... we had a first in the first race, which lifted our spirits; then a DNF for the second race, which sent our spirits down the bailer. We did not sail well in the third race and ended up 8th. In the fourth race we got a first, at least things were not getting worse. In the fifth race we got a 2nd, our spirit had learned to swim. At this point Marty Essig was first with 8 points; Bruno Ruthenberg was second with 11 points; we were third with 12 points; Andy Horton was next with 14 points and Mike Thomas was fifth with 18 points. Anything could happen.

The last race was sailed with little wind, and shortened to four legs. When the smoke cleared, the positions for the sixth race were as follows: Mike Thomas first; we were second; Andy Horton third; Marty Essig fourth; Matias del Solar fifth; Bruno Ruthenberg sixth.

At this time I would like to thank all the people that made this event a success. It comes to my mind the organizing committee; the host Yacht Club principals; the race committee; the boat owners; the social events organizers; the class representative, Mr. Larry MacDonald; the participants which, I am sure, had their arms twisted to go to beautiful Switzerland to suffer sailing and having a good time; my crew, Juan Andres and Jose Manuel; our buddies, the other crew from Ecuador, Justus, Roberto and Christian; and last, but not least, my dad, for his support and translating this article to English for me, thank you!!!

See you in two years in New Jersey.



*Miguel, Juan and José crossing with no problem on their way to becoming first Runner-Up in the Youth Worlds.*