

1981 SOUTH AMERICANS — SALINAS, ECUADOR!

by Francisco Sola Medina

Again a South American Championship in Salinas, Ecuador! This was good news for our District. Since after 1975's Worlds our Fleets were almost inactive and this was a good opportunity to promote the Class and get things going again.

1980 was a busy year for me and as usual I put too much of my time in my old vice, hunting. I had an African Safari and most of the weekends were spent in local hunts. As a result, I did not sail a single race since 1980 South Americans in Bogota until March 1981.

When I decided to restart, problem was that almost nobody was active. Finally, Laser and Sunfish Champions Juan Santos, Juan Plaza and Santiago Salem and my old and good friends Santiago and Alberto Maspons started to sail and we had Fleet 305 going. Qualifying races were sailed with sailors from Lake San Pablo, and for mid April we had a selection that I didn't completely sail since I thought I was qualified as current South American Runner-Up. This was my first mistake and all of us discovered it only when on arriving for the Championship participants from other countries claimed that Ecuador was going to have seven instead of the usual quota of six (South Americans rules state that only the current Champion sails out of quota and all of us were confused with the World Championship rules).

Finally, when I was ready to pack my boat and watch the races, the Congress voted, what was initially proposed, but I didn't accept since it was my mistake, to let me sail without sacrificing the sixth Ecuadorian Crew.

One tune-up race was sailed on Sunday, April 26 and we were first at the line after close battle with the Gonzalez Brothers from Chile and country mate Juan Santos, however race was not counted since on the spinnaker run we all used Jibe Mark instead of Leeward Mark after a big wind shift.

As usual, after the tune-up race, with my wife Cecilia and Crew members Johnny Meira and Rafael Lecaro, we made a list of skippers with possibilities. Of course Mario Buckup from Brazil was on top of it. Manuel Gonzalez from Chile sailing with his brother Tito as crew. Juan Santos from Ecuador and current Champion Fernando de la Concha from Colombia were also strong in our opinion. But names like Andres Lisocki, Former Champion Jaime Fernandez, and Roberto Ricoveri from Argentina proved to be fast. We had good upwind speed.

Monday morning came with typical nice Salinas conditions, with wind from S.W. at 10-15 knots, medium chop and shifts from 10° to 15°, these conditions remained until the end of the week.

After first start, we tacked to Port on clear air with Mario Buckup to our Leeward. Both played a couple of shifts looking well with the fleet. However Mario decided to go all the way across and we, to stay on right, waiting for a better opportunity that never came.

Juan Santos was first at the first mark, followed by Ricoveri, Buckup and Lisocki, we rounded near last.

Mario passed Santos and Ricoveri, showing his usual



spinnaker speed, and that was it. At the line it was Buckup, Santos, Gonzalez, Ricoveri, Lisocki all very close.

After trying the right side with no spectacular results we passed several boats and finished a disappointing eight.

Second race was our second big mistake.

The Port end of the line was as usual favored when we started on Tuesday afternoon and most of the 22 boat fleet was trying to find a hole near the pin. We chose a conservative clear air start in the middle, tacked to port and made it.

We sailed alone to the right side waiting for the wind to come back in our favor while watching all the fleet being lifted on the left.

At the first mark, it was Juan Santos with Buckup, Ricoveri, Fernandez, Gonzalez, Hernandez and Plaza all very close. We again rounded near last.

Reaches were broad and the leaders changed positions several times. The second upwind leg was also a close battle, but Mario rounded first followed by Fernandez and Santos.

We sailed low on the reaches and played the left in the second weather leg and after dead run it was Fernandez, Buckup, Santos, Plaza and us, with Gonzales and Ricoveri very close. We kept playing the shift on the middle with leaders covering. Positions remained the same until last quarter when the wind shifted to the right and favored those boats which stayed in the middle, Fernandez crossed first, followed by Ricoveri who sailed a nice leg coming from seventh, Buckup was third, we came in fourth and Plaza fifth, Santos went down to sixth and Gonzalez to tenth.

We were happy with our upwind speed and good recovery, however Mario looked good with 1-3.

Third race started with same conditions but sea looked more choppy than normal.

Mario got a nice start to port but too close to the usual bunch of Port starters. We chose the middle, broke to clear air, and sailed to the weather mark with a comfortable hole between us and Santos, Gonzalez and Buckup who were pretty close to a group of 6 or 8 boats.



Francisco "Paco" Sola

Everything was fine until, I forgot to open my eyes, ordered "Jibe" to soon and touched the mark. "Hell." When I calmed down and recovered, we were 15th and far from leaders.

I couldn't see what happened with the leaders since we were desperately trying to recover on the last leg, we saw Mario crossing the line well ahead of Santos who came in second. We were pretty close to Suazola and Gonzalez, ahead of Fernandez, Ransauer and Plaza and probably fourth when we decided to cross to left lay line which looked lifted and the left end of the line favored, then, "Hell" again.

A big shift came in from the right and we sailed into one of Salinas' typical dead holes, to be crossed, but I don't know by how many boats. Suazola, Gonzales and Fernandez were third, fourth, and fifth. Plaza was seventh, Lisocki was 13, we came in 14 and Ricoveri 17.

That night we stayed in the Bar longer than usual trying to find some psychological weapon to recover from initial problems. Of course Mario was out of sight with 1-3-1 but the rest didn't look too far away despite our 8-4-14. Santos was strong with 2-6-2, Fernandez was 9-1-5 Suazola 6-7-3, Gonzalez 3-10-4, Lisocki was 5-14-13, Ricoveri 4-2-17 and Champion de la Concha was 14-17-15.

Next day, not only because of our stay in the bar, Salinas looked different. Weather was the same but wind was from the west, there was a larger than normal swell and the spectator fleet was huge.

For fourth race we chose a start near the Port end and sailed a nice first leg very close with Lisocki, Buckup, Gonzalez and Plaza. After several changes in the lead, Lisocki and us got a 15° shift from the right of the fleet and rounded

pretty close and well ahead of Gonzalez, Santos, Buckup and Plaza. Them unbelievable "Hell" again. I made the very same mistake as previous day. After a nice first reach on which we came very close to Lisocki and opened our distance with third. Touch the Jibe mark again.

At the leeward mark, it was Lisocki, Gonzalez, Santos, Buckup and Plaza. We rounded 12 and sailed the rest of the race playing wind shifts and trying to recover since we didn't have more chances.

For the first time Andres Lisocki won this race showing his former usual form, followed by Mario, Manuel Gonzalez and us after crossing Santos and Plaza right at the line. Ricoveri was 10, Suazola 12, Fernandez 16, so we were still counting for at least second position.

Wind was again from the west for the fifth race and it was lighter than usual. We decided to sail our own race and forget (at least for the first half of the race) to cover any boat and to make an aggressive port end start. We got the pin and sailed a long starboard tack then played the shifts near the left lay line and rounded first closely followed by local arch rival Alberto Maspons, Lisocki, Gonzalez, Suazola and Buckup. Santos was deep into the fleet and so was Jaime Fernandez and Ricoveri.

We were passed by Maspons on the Spinnaker run, but we noticed that spectator fleet was to the right of the committee Boat, so decided to go over the left lay line and get clear air.

Maspons didn't cover and we passed him 300 yards before the finish line. Gonzalez passed several boats and was 3, Buckup 4, Suazola 5 and Lisocki 6. Santos finished 14.

At this time Mario Buckup was the winner and he doesn't need to sail the last race.

With a throw out: Gonzalez had 13 points, Santos 16, Sola 17, Suazola 21, and Fernandez 21.

So, again as it happened in our last two South Americans we were going to have a last race battle with two other boats.

In Peru in 1979 it was a battle until the finish with Alberto and Manuel Gonzalez which we won and in Bogota in 1980 it was against Dieter Dyck from Ecuador and Fernando de la Concha with whom we tied for first but lost according to the tie Breaker Rule.

Again we decided to visit the bar and next day were calm and cool with probably the only smiling face in the fleet.

Mario Buckup decided to stay away from the battle ground and joined and Spectator fleet. This was against us since it was one less boat to put in between Gonzalez and Santos.

We went for a hole at the port end to leeward of Gonzalez and Santos and force the first to tack into the fleet and to the unfavored right side. We kept on starboard covering Santos who passed us near the first mark. Lisocki was first followed by Martinez from Ecuador, Fernandez, Ricoveri and Schulbab, no one with a chance to catch us in points no matter how we finish. Knowing this we concentrate against Juan who was 6th, Gonzalez rounded 13.

Since then it was Santos and us trying to put more boats between Gonzalez. And we, to break his close covering and pass Juan.

Up in front, we saw several changes; Lisocki was still leading but Ricoveri went up to second, Fernandez third, Martinez fourth and Schulbab fifth.

Behind us, Gonzalez gained several boats and at the last leeward mark he was eighth.

Starting the last beat we tacked to the left covered by Santos but he was slow and let us foot away to his leeward and soon was luffed and forced to tack. Then we started to cover Juan but at the same time playing the shifts and soon got Schlubab and arrive to the line in fifth, missing Martinez by a few yards.

Juan Santos also passed Schlubab and came in sixth and therefore tied with us.

Both Santos and us remained near the line waiting to see what happened with Gonzalez, who was sailing mixed with and covered by several boats.

Schlubab passed the line, then Ramsaver. Gonzalez came in ninth and tied in points with Santos and us.

Later, the committee confirmed that our first place in 5th race gave us second place.

The results showed that there were at least 5 crews who could have won the title and at least 3 others equally fast. This was probably the reason for the inconsistency that all but Mario showed.



Mario Buckup

In our case I think we were a little faster upwind than the rest, including Mario and for this reason we were not happy with our score. I think we played to much with the extremes with no necessity to do it, and forgetting how dangerous this can be in Salinas. Also I was still wondering how you can touch two marks in two consecutive races, being in the lead and the worse..... Being absolutely clear. Mario showed us that he is still super Mario. He sailed very conservative but with excellent tactics and his traditional spinnaker speed (Joaquin Fenederg's Job). Congratulations to Mario, Telma and Joaquin my good friends from many years and regattas.

Before the races I heard many theories about old boats being faster than new ones. New ones of 13000 series unbeatable off wind and so on. But after these races I was happy to know that the Class doesn't have this kind of problem and that any boat, in good shape of course, can win races. Juan Santos sailed an 11 year old boat, Mario Buckup, Jaime Fernandez and Ricoveri used borrowed boats of the 11000 series, I had my good 12693 and Gonzalez and Lisocki, brand new 13000. Probably, the only handicapped was Fernando de la Concha who brought a brand new Colombian built, wood boat which I think helped Fernando's poor showing.

This boat equality is good for us in South America since there are many old boats which can be competitive with little money and since every day it is more difficult to import new boats.

Looking for the reasons why the class is not growing in my country, the conclusion is simple, our clubs failed in starting Junior Programs and we have always the same old faces which every day are fewer and older. This is a mistake that will take many years to correct and which I hope other South American countries will avoid.

Even so, the class is still the Strongest in South American with the highest talent and with no doubt is the one with the greatest people.

27th SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Final Pos.	Skipper	Country	Boat #	Race Finishes						Pts.
				1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Mario Buckup	Brasil	12440	1	3	1	2	4	NP	11
2	Francisco Sola	Ecuador	12693	6	4	(14)	4	1	5	22
3	Juan Santos Garces	Ecuador	11928	2	6	2	6	(14)	6	22
4	Manuel Gonzalez	Chile	13595	3	(10)	4	3	3	9	32
5	Jaime Fernandez	Chile	12659	9	1	5	(16)	7	3	25
6	Andres Lisocki	Colombia	3041	5	(14)	13	1	6	1	26
7	Roberto Ricoveri	Argentina	11447	4	2	(17)	10	15	2	30
8	Rodrigo Zuazola	Chile	11040	6	7	3	12	5	(16)	33
9	Carlos Ramsaver	Ecuador	13097	(18)	11	6	8	10	7	42
10	Alberto Maspons	Ecuador	13440	12	9	11	(13)	2	11	45
11	Mauricio Martinez	Ecuador	13444	10	16	(21)	7	8	4	45
12	Juan Carlos Plaza	Ecuador	12422	D	5	7	5	11	18	46
13	Rufino Melero	Chile	13484	7	13	(16)	14	12	10	55
14	Reginald Schlubab	Colombia	13420	15	(18)	18	9	13	8	63
15	Santiago Maspons	Ecuador	13441	13	12	A	18	9	13	65
16	Jorge Campos	Chile	13168	11	20	10	17	18	15	71
17	Antonio Pacini	Colombia	13607	16	19	8	20	17	12	72
18	Luis Hermann	Chile	13536	A	15	12	11	21	14	73
19	Fernando De La Concha	Colombia	13432	14	17	15	19	16	17	79
20	Jaime Casabianca	Colombia	11234	20	A	9	15	20	19	83
21	Vicente Hernandez	Colombia	13451	17	8	20	22	19	20	84
22	Arnaldo Higuera	Colombia	13549	19	D	19	21	22	21	102

NP/A = 23

D = 24

29th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

by Pasquale Teri

The 1981 European Championship was sailed in Marsala (Italy) in July 1981. Marsala is a very beautiful holiday town in Sicily where the weather conditions are excellent throughout the whole year. During the six regatta days all the crew had not only the possibility to show their best experience but also the opportunity to visit the marvellous places near Marsala rich of historical records and old traditions.

Of course we needed a good deal of time to set up the championship itself because it was the first time that our club — Circolo Velico Marsala — was organizing such an important event. Moreover it must be remembered that the seventh Federazione Italiana Vela District had never organized a European Championship so we had to face a good deal of difficulties in order to get the best during the championship, which according to all the crews' opinions was excellent.

The winner was the Italian Crew Coccoloni, Di Girolamo, Innocenti, five times first at the finishing line, the fourth regatta was won by the local crew Attina', Attina', Brocato. The runner up was the Greek crew Andreadis, Andreadis, Limberakis. Very good was the performance of the very young crew Messina, Nizza, Vitaggio who gained the fourth final place even if their boat and sails were rather old.

First race: wind ten to sixteen miles from west; 29 boats left the starting line and after a very beautiful race Coccoloni and his crew were first, followed by the crew of Andreadis, Riti was third.

Second race: wind eight to ten miles from the north-west. The general conditions of the weather were the same as the first day even if the wind was just a little less strong. Once again Coccoloni was first, followed by Messina. Riti was

third again.

Third race: wind from six to eight miles from the north. It was a splendid regatta because everyone had the possibility to follow it thanks to the general weather conditions. Coccoloni was first once again followed by the Greek crew of Andreadis. The Swiss Crew Schmid, Buchshacher, Hofer were third.

Fourth race: wind from six to ten miles from the south-west. The local crew Attina', Attina', Brocato were first. This time Coccoloni and his crew were second while Messina was third.

Fifth race: wind from 14 to 18 mph from the north. High wind and choppy seas made this race very competitive and Coccoloni was first for the fourth time. Andreadis was second while Lambelet and his crew were third.

Sixth race: wind from 16 to 24 miles from north-west. The weather conditions were the same as the fifth race even if the wind was a little stronger. For the fifth time Coccoloni was first, followed by Schmid. Du Pasquier was third.

It was a very beautiful championship and the Italian crews gained very good final positions.

In the marvellous sunset of August 27th, near the splendid Mediterranean sea, a crowd of people and the highest local authorities gave their last warmest greetings to all the crews who, after drinking our delicious Marsala wine and receiving the beautiful prizes, returned to their countries happy for having enjoyed an unforgettable holiday.

Next year our club — Circolo Velico Marsala — will organize the third World Youth Championship that will take place in Marsala from the second to the eighth of August.

29th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Fin. Pos.	Boat #	Boat Name	Skipper & Crew	Fleet or Club	Race Finishes						Pts.
					1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	13374	Tempesta	Coccoloni, DiGirolamo, Innocenti	Marivel	1	1	1	2	1	1	0
2	11459	Crimis V	Andreadis, Andreadis, Liberakis	Grecia	2	3	2	4	2	DNF	22.7
3	10898	Milan III	Schimid, Buchshacher, Hofer	CH	5	8	3	16	5	2	42.7
4	12061	Zaza'	Messina, Nizza, Vitaggio	0618	4	2	11	3	6	9	43.4
5	13481	Wanted	Attina', Attina', Brocato	0609	9	4	8	1	7	5	45
6	13067	Numana	DuPasquier, Von Alimen, Von Alimen	CH	6	10	5	DNF	4	3	51.4
7	12860	Garoupa	Lambelet, Lambelet, Lambelet	CH	7	7	4	9	3	13	54.7
8	13264	Excelsior	Lo Sardo, Lo Sardo, Lo Sardo	Marivel	10	6	6	13	10	4	63.4
9	13414	White Cloud	Crucitti, Spano, D'Asta	0618	8	9	9	10	9	6	70.7
10	13266	Bama rs	Rita, Marino, Abate	0618	3	DNF	12	7	14	10	72.7
11	13402	Raimbow	Marino, Linares, Sara	0618	14	15	14	6	8	12	83.7
12	13099	Domi-Nike	Luthj, Taschler, Stauffer	CH	11	5	10	15	15	15	85
13	12637	—	Wyler, Stadelmann, Rolli	CH	23	11	7	12	11	16	87
14	13455	Wind III	Pellegrino, Messina, Giacalone	0618	12	17	19	14	17	8	98
15	11325	Joker	Laudicina, DiBartolo, Alagna	0609	26	12	20	5	16	17	99
16	13065	Castor	Cudia, Clemente, Aloia	0618	16	DNF	18	20	13	7	104
17	13346	Bibir	Rocchegiani, Bozzi, Brugia	C.N. Fal	19	14	16	11	20	14	104
18	13161	Blak Hausi	Schar, Schar, Schar	CH	18	18	15	18	19	11	110
19	8620	Finalmente	Vivani, Armeni, Vivani	C.N. Fal	22	16	21	8	DNF	19	116
20	13557	Ausonia	Zerilli, Zerilli, Zerilli	0618	17	19	22	17	12	PMS	117
21	13035	Scirocco	Pernice, Pipitone, Pulizzi	0618	13	13	28	21	23	DNF	128
22	13091	Brazil	Eschle, Gmur, Gmur	CH	25	21	17	22	25	18	133
23	12571	—	Herzog, Herzog, Herzog	CH	15	22	24	25	18	DNF	134
24	12297	Gargantua	Battisti, Meacci, Caico	A.V. Brac	DNF	20	13	19	DNC	DNF	142
25	12952	Nao IV	Scharer, Scharer, Lanzrein	CH	24	25	26	23	22	21	145
26	12537	Luktor	Gambina, Dara, Puletto	0618	27	24	27	27	21	20	149
27	13263	—	Zunardi, Bonsignore, Rizzo	0621	DNF	DSQ	23	24	24	22	153
28	13345	Tretepe 2	DeAmicis, DeAmicis, Babbi	Y.C. Torl	20	26	29	26	DNC	23	154
29	13349	Oh Hell	Arcuri, Del Sordo, Massara	0607	21	23	25	DNC	DNC	DNC	159



Dave Curtis and Crew at N.A.'s.

Photo Credit — Mitch Carucci

