



WORLDS 2003





THE ECUADORIAN PARTY

By: Paco Solá

This whole idea started at the 1999 North American Championships in Carlyle, Illinois when Carlos Lecaro, Jimmy Pazmiño and myself had just qualified for the first time to the Blue Fleet sailing in "ANTIL DI X", A.K.A. "the Red Boat". That night we found ourselves with our friends from Colombia participating in a "Luau Party" and we thought, we need to show the Lightning class how "to party Ecuadorian style".

Fast forward to 2003 and we find ourselves in Miami, except this time there were over 60 Ecuadorian's on the team. We thought the occasion was ripe for a celebration. We approached Bill Mauk and the organizing time about throwing a party, but a) we didn't even know when or how to begin, and b) THEY didn't know we were dead serious!.

Long story short, sailors went sailing and the land team went shopping. They pretty much emptied Costcos liquor shelves and bought all the rum they could carry, plus some tequila and a few bags of chips. We hired the able bartender crew at Coral Reef and a fine duo that just kept us dancing until someone switched the lights off. Good thing there was no sailing the next day!.

What happened at that party, in my heart, became an instant legend of the Lightning Class!.

Carlos opened the party with a stark announcement: **"no crazy water, no rum for you!"**. The baptising drink was "agua loca", a mixture of rum, tequila, orange juice and grenadine (I think...) and you had to drink before you were to be served any rum. People just went crazy, we danced all night long, we did the choo-choo dance, we sang, we made lasting friendships and when they finally threw us out we were proudly able to say that we had shown them "how it's done".



Jo Mauk, Juan Santos, Paco Solá and Anne Allen after an hour of fine dancing!

But the real reason the ecuadorian party was such a success was simply everyone was "in the mood". The party was just an example of what the Worlds in Miami accomplished for the Lightning Class. Everyone, from all over the world, was in the mood. The regatta had come together perfectly, weather was unbeatable, competition as tough as ever, attendance as good as ever, and world-class organization.

To all those of you who made the "Ecuadorian Party" the success that it was:

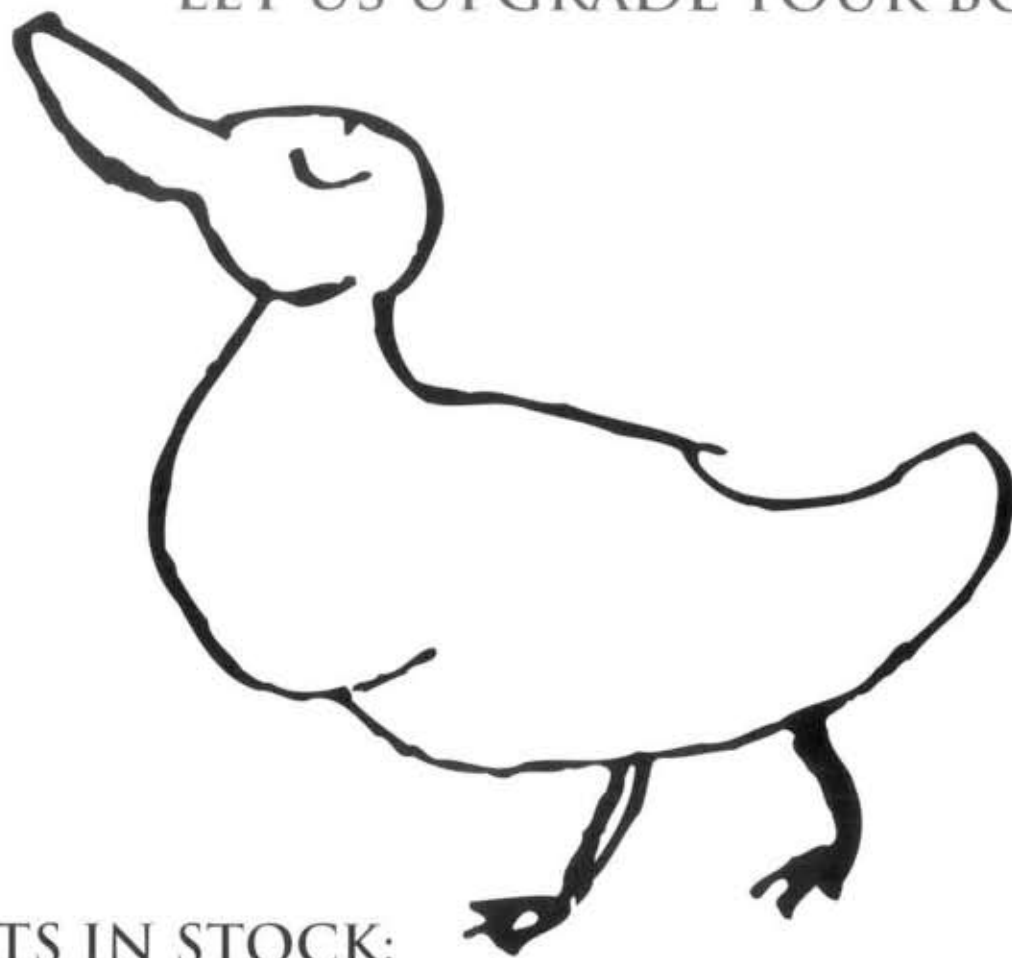
"Great party man!"

Sincerely,

The members of the Ecuador District (especially the crew of the "Red Boat"!).

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JIM CARSON
499 Princeton Avenue
Brick, NJ 08724
Telephone 732/892-1735
jgcfuzzy@litenet.net