

## George Szabo on the Snipe Class

George has a winning streak in the Snipes that is very rare. His success in the Snipe class in the last 10 years is matched only by a very few world wide. I asked George some questions about the Snipe Class and Sailing just this week. Here is what he had to say.

**SCIRA USA:** Tell me some of the best times you have sailed Snipe with a family member?

**George:** 2002 Snipe Westerns (Hemispheres) with Stacey (George's wife, crew and a top skipper).

**SCIRA USA:** Are the parties really Serious Fun in the Snipe Class? Can you give me an example of a Serious Fun Party?

**George:** GFU. *The GFU regatta is a very special regatta hosted by the Mission Bay Yacht Club. The regatta is a tag team regatta where sailing teams sail around an island for 24 hours. Each team is allowed to sail two laps before switching with other team members. Around 9:00 the regatta has a "break" for a band that will play 'till midnight. Then the teams re-organize and it is off to the races again. The team with the most laps around the island wins! But everyone wins at the party that is talked about for years.*

**SCIRA USA:** Tell me how your experience in the Snipe class helps you in other classes. Is it the competition, or the tuning aspect, or what?

**George:** Practice, practice, practice. Small boat racing gives lots of races, and lots of opportunities to work on tactics.

**SCIRA USA:** If a young sailor asked you what non-Olympic boat helped the most to understand sailing which boat would you answer with and why?

**George:** Sabot - I learned to sail in it.

**SCIRA USA:** Can you tell me how and when you started sailing Snipe?

**George:** 1991 - for a college regatta in Japan, crewing for Alex Camet.

**SCIRA USA:** Tell me is Serious Sailing, Serious Fun really what you see in the Snipe Class?

**George:** The ad line is a good description of the class.