



SNIPE CLASS ANNOUNCES 2022 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The International Snipe Class has a long history of which very few other classes can boast. The boat was designed by Bill Crosby in 1931 and 88 years later, 32000+ boats have been built with fleets in over 30 active nations.

It is a history of people, sailors, champions, enthusiasts, promoters, sailmakers, builders and organizers.

The past is strongly linked to the present: all the inductees have helped to promote and grow our Class in many countries and continents; many of these people are still strongly linked to the Class or have been, when they were alive, to form a large family, the Snipe Family, from great-grandparents to grandchildren.

For this reason, the "Snipe Class International Racing Association Hall of Fame" was created.

The SCIRA Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Snipe Class and Snipe competition.

The Class is honoring three categories: Sailing, Technical Design and Contributors, --people who made significant contributions to the Snipe Class.

For this fourth year a maximum of five inductees were considered (ten in the first year, eight for the second year and five for the years after).

The 2022 inductees are among those who have undoubtedly contributed to make the history of the Snipe Class. As Commodore Luis Soubie stated, "All these sailors made the footsteps of what we are all walking these past decades, so we thank them, remember and honor them as they deserve."

Full bios and additional photos & videos can be viewed here: <https://www.snipe.org/members/hall-of-fame>

For more information, contact SCIRA office: office@snipe.org



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Damian Borrás Camps (1963-) (ESP)

Damian Borrás Camps (DBC), born in 1963 in Mahón (Menorca), a small island in the Balearic Islands in Spain. He started sailing the Optimist at the premature age of 5, being runner-up in the Balearic Islands in 1975. At the age of 12 he sailed on Snipe as a crew member for his father Antonio and later for his cousin Damian, they were his first teachers.

He sailed his first national regatta as part of the Spanish Championship in Ciutadella in 1977. At the age of 18 he got his first Spanish youth championship in Los Nietos (Murcia 1982). Twice runner-up in Europe (1988 and 1992) and European champion in 1994.

His first absolute World Championship was held in La Rochelle (France) in 1987 where he finished 6th and the last one where he participated was in Ilhabela (Brazil) in 2018 where he finished 3rd (31 years later). He won the title of Master World champion in Vilamoura 2018 and European Master Champion three times (2011, 2013, 2015).

To highlight his victories in the prestigious Princess Sofia Trophy (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) as well as his stage as Spanish coach of the Snipe class in Europeans such as Pori (Finland 2006), Las Palmas (Spain 2008), Cervia (Italy 2012) or Pori (Finland 2018) where all the victories were achieved.

As well as his stage as a trainer in the Laser category where he achieved countless titles culminating in his participation with the Spanish coach in Rio de Janeiro 2016. Damian credits the Snipe family to contributing to his way of being and modus vivendi. Having traveled to wonderful and unforgettable places, making friends forever, and learned a series of values that he cannot describe...

He wants to thank the people who influenced his journey, without their charisma he would not have been able to accomplish these things. To name a few: Jan and Jane Persson, Birger Jansen, or his great idols, Chiqui Garcia de Soto, Felix Gancedo, Santiago Lange, and Torben Grael.

The same with his great rivals, to which he is eternally grateful: Fernando Rita, Jorge Haenel, or even Jordi Triay, and with the entire Snipe family.

So, it is most fitting that Damian was selected as a SCIRA Hall of Fame inductee for 2022.



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Jerelyn Biehl (1960-) (USA)

Jerelyn Biehl has served as SCIRA Executive Director and Editor of the Snipe Bulletin since 1993 (30 years and counting) and has overseen the international expansion of the Snipe class and its continued organizational growth worldwide.

Born in San Diego in 1960, she was raised in a sailing family, the youngest of 3 - all who would race Snipes. Sailing out of Mission Bay, her first Snipe race was at the age of 13 crewing for Randy MacLaren, a local Finn sailor jumping into the highly competitive Mission Bay Snipe fleet.

Snipes took a break while she was sailing in college for UCLA and then back in the Snipe where she was crewing for Tom Nute when another team port tacked at the weather mark, which would be longtime friend Eric Krebs crewing for Sean Biehl, her future husband.

The Snipe remained the primary boat in the house with her sons Graham and Cameron both racing and winning Snipe titles themselves (Graham--2003 Jr World Champion & US Jr Nationals, Cameron--US Nationals Wells crew and Special Junior National champion).

Jerelyn also won the US Women's Nationals and placed top 5 in all 4 Women's World Championships she raced. World Masters were also on her schedule crewing for many skippers in 6 events over the years and sailing with her son (as crew) in 2016.

In the 1990s, the San Diego fleet led the charge on women's Snipe sailing with several clinics and regattas and she joined up with her sister, DeAnn Reynolds in the boat where they were a force to be reckoned with. DeAnn had a strong Snipe past crewing for husband Mark and slipping into the crew position for Jerelyn was easy and they had fun and were fast! Jerelyn continues to stay loyal to the Snipe class but also has been racing Sabots, J/22s and keelboats.

As Executive Director, she has seen the Class evolve from mailing only, to faxes and then to email and helped transition the Class to the internet and digital. Programs initiated include the coaching clinic, international royalties, measurement programs and clinics, dedicated websites for Snipe regattas, transitioning to a new Snipe Class website, adding Snipe merchandise and formalizing various documents for the Snipe class.

She has also served as the Snipe ambassador at World Sailing and US Sailing meetings and conferences. She's had the fortune to work with 22 Snipe Commodores and various Board and committee members from countries all over the Snipe world.

A champion for juniors and women sailors, she is an inspiration to all Snipe sailors.



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Antonio Espada (1949-) (ESP)

Antonio Espada Tarradellas, was born in Oviedo -Spain- in August 1949, the son of Catalan parents, who soon moved to Barcelona where he grew up and developed his activity.

A great lover of the sea and sailing, his voyage began in 1964 with a Norwegian Tumblaren, BUILT IN THE Canary Islands, later sailing in Vaurien and 470 and building a Ten-Ten designed by John Illingwort and Primrose with his brother.

His history in the Snipe begins sailing in Catalonia in the 70s, with a Skipper built by Erling Olsen and studying other boats in his fleet, he observes great differences between boats according to their center of gravity and weight of the mast, which leads him to study the influence of the weight distribution on the boat.

In 1975, through Arturo Delgado, at that time Secretary for Europe of SCIRA, he obtained the first set of springs to perform the Snipe Inertia Test that arrived in Europe and built an electronic timer that facilitated the rigorous performance of this measurement, giving it a great impetus to the realization of the MOI.

With Ted Wells, he exchanges ideas, and achieves that the upper face of the Orza Box must be parallel to the Base Line.

Between 1976 and 1983 at the request of Juan Manuel Alonso Allende, president of the RFEV who was Snipe World Champion in 1957, he led the dinghy sailing measurement committee, organizing in Celanova (Mallorca) with Alonso Allende and Tony Watts the first International Symposium on the IYRU on light sail measurement, actually the origin of the measurer's trade.

In 1977, on the occasion of the Junior World Championship that was held in Ciudadela (Balearic Islands), he found the opportunity to investigate more about Snipes from other countries built by different Shipyards and managed to make the MOI to the boats of this World Cup.

There, Pedro Sisti, coach of the Argentine Snipe team, takes the stopwatch used to measure the Championship.

Subsequently, and at the request of Isidro Rigau, Vice President of the Barcelona 92 Olympic Committee, he was responsible for performing the Lamboley Test at 470 at the Barcelona 92 Olympics.

In 1983, when personal reasons forced him to move away from this work, Paco Pérez National Secretary in Spain asked him to form a group of snipe measurers to take care of the Class, he did so and Pepe Pérez was among the attendees, who would be the one he will continue his task in the Snipe Class.



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He participated in the Porto World Championship, when Giorgio Brèzich was the President of the Rules Committee, and Antonio Bari the Chief Measurer

Between 1983 and 2012 he was always the "master" of the meters in Spain, solving all the doubts and problems that arose until in 2012 he was elected Chief Measurer of SCIRA, developing and presenting to SCIRA a project for the approval of shipyards and new procedures for marking and sealing equipment that, although not yet officially in force, much of it has been running for years and with proposal 22-07 presented to SCIRA by Luis Soubié, if approved, snipe measurements will be expedited at the same time that they would guarantee more the homogeneity of all the boats.

In 2016, he was diagnosed with a Colon Tumor, which entailed ChemoTherapy Sessions, and Radiotherapy, which produced insensitivity in his Hands and Feet, which made him resign as Chief Measurer before the La Coruña World Cup, but not before leaving a World Sailing Measurer as a proposal for the new Chief Measurer, presenting Luis Gonzalez for the position.

In 2016, and as a result of the discovery of an old Snipe from 1935 in Altafulla, he managed to introduce it to the Museu Maritim de Barcelona, achieving a SNIPE Monographic exhibition between July and September 2016, visited, among others, by the current Commodore, Zbigniew Rackocy

Three phrases that he has tirelessly repeated to his students define his philosophy:

“There is no tolerance for tolerances”

"The best is the enemy of the good"

“The only difference between an oversized Snipe and the Queen Mary is its size. Neither of them is a SNIPE”.



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Miyuki Kai (1953-2014) (JPN)

Miyuki Kai was a great Japanese sailor - once of the strongest sailors in Japan based on his results. He was a 5-time Japan National champion and won many other national class titles over the years including the Finn, 470, Laser and 505. He finished 3rd in the 1985 Snipe Worlds and 2nd in the 1984 Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship.

But his most glorious results would be as 470 World Champion in 1979 in the Netherlands. At this event, he used "Kai Sails" - custom built and designed by him. Dave Ullman commented, "Miyuki was one of the best sailors I have ever met and had the pleasure to be around. But more important was the friendship that we shared..."

Miyuki went in style racing his Snipe until the last moment, where he had a heart attack on the final approach to the weather mark. Despite all efforts, he was not able to be revived.

He is missed by his sailing community and remembered as one of the finest Japanese sailors. Welcome to the 2022 SCIRA Hall of Fame!



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The 5.5 meter boat, Roy, (far right) sailing in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. (Photo by Fusanori Nakajima)



Fujiya Matsumoto (1940-2022) (JPN)

Fujiya Matsumoto was the first Japanese sailor to participate in the Snipe World Championship with Roy Yamaguchi. He participated in the 1964 Olympic Games (Tokyo) as a representative of the 5.5m (on a boat named "Roy"). He was the first Japanese to serve as Commodore of SCIRA (1992). He succeeded in the 1986 WH&O (Enoshima) and the 1989 World Championship (Karatsu).

Fujiya was responsible for creating the Snipe Women's World Championship and securing the 2 beautiful carved crystal vases in the name of Roy Yamaguchi for the Championship. The first Women's Worlds were as only Japan could create - fantastic. The Women's were part of the 3-part Worlds hosted by Japan: The Masters in Gamagori, followed by the Junior Worlds in Mikkabi, and finally the Women's in Yokohama all held in 1994.

Snipe Hall of Fame inductees:

2019

Gonzalo Diaz, USA
Bibi Juetz, BRA
Axel & Erik Schmidt, BRA
Carlos & Jorge Vilar Castex, ARG
Earl Elms, USA
Hub E. Isaacks, USA
Jan Persson, DEN
Id Crook, CAN
Theodore Wells, USA
William Crosby, USA

2020

Augie Diaz, USA
Birger Jansen, USA
Brainard Cooper, USA
Giorgio Brezich, ITA
Felix Gancedo, ESP
Roy Yamaguchi, JPN
Santiago Lange, ARG
Torben Grael, BRA



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2021

Alberto Lineburger, BRA
Jerry Thompson, USA
Jimmie Lowe, BAH
Mark Reynolds, USA
Paul Elvstrom, DEN

2022

Damian Borrás, ESP
Jerelyn Biehl, USA
Antonio Espada, ESP
Miyuki Kai, JPN
Fujiya Matsumoto, JPN