

International Masters and South American Championships



2017 LIGHTNING WORLDS, MASTERS AND SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Salinas, ECUADOR, November 17-25 ©Manuel Medir/SalinasYachtClub



November 20

- The edges pay on the first beat, with leaders coming from the right and left, with the middle losing out

At the first top mark:

1. Conte
2. Uzcategui
3. Proctor
4. J Santos
5. Beckmann

- **Conte and Proctor win South American and International Masters Championship titles!**

Ched Proctor and his team won the day in both the South Americans and Masters fleets, and while Proctor seized the title of International Masters Champion, it was the Argentinian team of Javier Conte with Julio Alsogaray and Paula Salerno who maintained their dominance over the South American championship, once again capturing the title for their homeland after a string of Chilean and Brazilian wins. Conte and his all-star team took a commanding victory in the first race of the day and would not have needed to sail the last race of the series to maintain their lead. The Ecuadorian team of Julio Velez with Eduardo Viteri and Irene Suarez came in a close second, followed by class newcomer and Snipe world champion Raul Rios. Ex-World Champ Claudio Biekarck of Brazil and USA's Proctor rounded out the top 5.

As the Masters were subscored, Proctor went into the last race tied for points with Biekarck. The two found their way to the front of the fleet and Proctor controlled Biekarck throughout the race, and while the pair finished 1,2,

the only thing that mattered was that the American stayed ahead, and that he did. Jeff Linton and his team of wife Amy and Steve Davis, who were leading into the day, fell to third.

This is Conte's first South American championship, though he and his team are not new to capturing continental titles; they won the ILCA North American championship in September.



Proctor is an old pro when it comes to winning the Masters Worlds, with his most recent victory coming two editions ago in Castiglione del Lago, Italy. Now, Salinas Yacht Club will move to hosting the ILCA World Championship, occurring on the 21st to the 24th of this month. All of the teams mentioned above will be competing, along with a significant pool of others.



*International Masters Champions: Ched Proctor
Meredith Killion, Todd Wake*



*Suth American Champions: Javier Conte
Paula Salerno, Julio Alsogaray*

November 19

- Larry Macdonald leads around the windward mark in R3

Top 8:

1. Larry Macdonald
2. Raul Rios
3. Marvin Beckmann
4. Juan Santos
5. Dave Spira
6. Jonathan Martinetti
7. Nico Fracchia
8. Victor Lobos

- MacDonald, Rios, Beckmann are 1,2,3 at the gate in R3
- Conte, Proctor, Lobos in 1,2,3 around the bottom mark in R4

- Two more races were completed in Salinas, Ecuador today, bringing the total for the Lightning South American and International Masters Championships to 4. Javier Conte has maintained his lead in the South Americans, scoring a 10 in race 3 before returning to his winning form with a 2 in race 4. The 1997 World Champion team of Larry MacDonald with crew and Jody Starck found victory in race 3, followed closely by Ecuadorian Juan Santos. Chilean Felipe Robles won race 4. Billy Martin and his team continue to be the top Americans, but current Masters North American champion Marvin Beckmann is on the move. The fleet once again was greeted by overcast skies and an unusually fickle wind for Salinas, but despite these obstacles, SYC race committee ran spectacular races.

In the masters' division, Claudio Biekarck of Brazil scored a 2,4 to tie with Jeff Linton on points, with the Brazilians winning the tiebreaker. American Mark Sertl is following close behind, only one point off the leading two. The final two races of both series are scheduled for tomorrow at 1:30 EST, once again, and will be available to be tracked at the link below. Additionally, you can find tracking replays of all the races that have already taken place at the same link.



November 18

- General recall in the first attempt at a start for R1 at South Americans and Master Worlds
- Javier Conte leads around the windward mark in R1
- Team Conte takes race 2 of the South Americans, jumping out to an early lead with a 1,1 on the day with Julio Velez trailing closely with a 2,2. 8 nations are represented in the top 9 of the SAs. In the Masters division, Jeff Linton is leading with a 2,1.
- “Grey” was the word to describe conditions today, but two successful races were completed. See the press release below:
- Javier Conte and Jeff Linton proved to be consistent, conservative, and fast to take early leads in the Lightning South American and Masters World championships, respectively. After an antsy fleet compelled a general recall in the first attempt at a start in race 1, all other starts went smoothly, and Salinas’ famous ocean conditions shined as a platform for top tier racing. Conte and his Argentine team sailed to a 1,1 against a tight South Americans fleet, while Linton scored a 1,2 in the Masters. Conte found success starting at the pin and using his top rate boat speed to extend to the left and cross the fleet. Julio Velez of Ecuador follows Conte closely after scoring a 2,2 to keep the South American title up for grabs. Eight nations are accounted for in the top 9 teams in the South Americans, and the top American team is sitting in sixth, composed of a young group of Washington, DC college sailing figures: George Washington coach Billy Martin, Georgetown coach Janel Zarkowsky, and Georgetown standout crew Isabelle Ruiz de la Luziaraga.
- In the Masters, Brazilian Claudio Biecarck and his experienced team trail Linton by only 5 points, tied with American Mark Sertl. Two additional races are scheduled for tomorrow, with the final two slated for Monday.

