August 12-17
Moscow, Russia

Twenty-seven teams arrived in Moscow representing fifteen countries from the Snipe World. The Jr. Worlds were created by 1976 Commodore Svend Rantil, whom many of us had just met at the St. Worlds in Sweden the week before. The Jr. World's idea came about not only to foster competition between the juniors, but also to expose them to different cultures. On paper, Russia seemed about as different as you could experience, but once on the water, the juniors all found they were basically the same!

East European Secretary Alexei Fomin and his Moscow Sailing School did a great job preparing for the regatta including ordering 24 brand new boats delivered right before the event. Alexei was also instrumental in encouraging 4 different East European countries to send junior teams; Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and newcomer Moldavia.

The first day of competition began with a 1-hour tow to one of three possible regatta sites. Once there, the sailors first started with a recall followed by dying breeze which forced the Race Committee into a 4 hour postponement. Finally the breeze began to build and the first race was off. Uruguays Juan Sienna and Santiago Sanches rounded first and were able to keep their lead until local sailors Maxim Kuzmin/Alexander Shirokov passed them in the light and shifty breeze. Kuzmin/Shirokov went on to win the only race of the day.

Day 2 found the group being towed to a much closer venue; only 30 minutes away. Here the teams found a little more breeze to their liking. The day was overcast with squalls rolling across the reservoir bringing moments of big breeze and pockets of light, shifty areas not so easy to read. 2nd place finisher Adolfo Benavides and Federico Priego of Argentina posted a 1-2-4 for the day moving them into first place overall. Americans Mike Anderson-Mitterling and Graham Bielrevelved in the big puffs and were able to post a 5-1-2 moving them to 2nd overall. Russians Kuzmin/Shirokov had a difficult last race posting 2-5-10 as the day progressed. The Brazilian duo of Victor Demaison/Filipe Novello and Marcelo Bellotti/Eduardo Molina traded off good races through the day with Bellotti/Molina winning the final race.

The 3rd day of racing was once again light and spotty. Patience was the key word here as first the light then the right would pay depending on the oscillations. Those most patient were the winners with Americans Anderson-Mitterling/Biel winning both races of the day.

Fellow Americans Adam/Melanie Roberts posted the 2nd best results of the day with a 3-2, trying to erase an OCS they received in the first race. On the tow in, Mikee & Graham said they were mentally exhausted from the days sailing, but started to do the math and quickly realized they had won the regatta, as their closest competition had both not had stellar races.

After a few protests were heard, the sailors were loaded on to busses and driven into central Moscow to view the Kremlin, Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral as well as numerous other sites in Moscow. Everyone returned exuberant that they had seen some of the treasures of Russia, but exhausted and ready to hit the sack for the final day of racing.

The final day was sunny and light. Anderson-Mitterling/Biel opted to watch from the coaches boat as their fellow competitors duked it out on the race course in 6-8 knot winds.

Results

1. Milke Anderson/Graham Bielh USA 5-5-1-2-1-11-(dnc) 14.25
2. Adolfo Benavides/Federico Prierson ARG 3-1-2-4-(10)-10-4 23.75
3. Maxim Kuzmin/Alexander Shirokov RUS 1-2-5-10-2-5-(12) 24.75
4. Martin Petrin/Lelio DiSanto ARG 2-8-(6)-6-4-4-6 28.0
5. Adam/Melanie Roberts USA (ocs)-3-13-7-3-2-1 28.75
6. Danil Odintsov/Yiry Polzin BLR 4-6-16-8-6-8-3 34
7. Rayco Tabares/Francisco de Leon ESP 6-7-4-5-16-12-2 36
8. Victor DeMaison/Filipe Novello BRA 14-4-3-3-30-13-5 42
9. Marcelo Bellotti/Eduardo Molina BRA 12-10-7-1-3-9-(dsc) 46.75
10. Anna Kovrigina/Ekaterina Vetrova RUS 11-9-10-(20)-5-7-7 48
11. Juan Sienna/Santiago Sanches URU 7-14-9-16-(16)-13-3 58
16. Christian Andersen/Rasmus Hansen DEN 16-13-12-9-(21)-18-16 84
17. Taro Nishioka/Shinya Morimoto JPN (21)-20-(19)-11-13-4-13 90
18. Antonin Noutte/Guillaume Capit FRA (zfp)-22-14-14-7-21-14 92
19. Luca Fazzini/Lorenzo Bonomi ITA 17-20-(21)-17-9-16-21 99
20. Derek Taylor/Anna Wiesen CAN (21)-17-20-18-17-11-19 101
21. Benjamin Romain/Jeremie Bourdaine FRA (23)-16-17-13-22-20-17 104
24. Shota Nakada/Miki Yamauchi JPN 19-(24)-24-22-24-23-22 133

Americans Adam/Melanie Roberts won the final race after chasing Belarusians Daniil Odintsov/Yiry Polzin around the course. Spaniards Rayco Tabares/Francisco DeLeon also passed the Belarusians to finish 2nd in the race.

The prizegiving included a Camel for the winners to ride, fireworks and a great disco party afterwards. In true junior fashion, the celebrating continued until the wee hours and new friends were made and lots of shirts were exchanged.

Thanks to SCIRA Russia for a momentous regatta for all competitors!