

Carolyn Brown Krebs & Julie Redler Reign as World Champions!

The women of the Snipe world converged in St. Petersburg, Florida in October to contest the 5th Women's World Championship and the Roy Yamaguchi trophy. Returning were reigning World champions Karianne Eickland and Janett Krefting of Norway, complemented by numerous other worthy competitors representing 8 countries.

The weather was not looking promising the first week in October, with hurricane season lingering on and tropical heat rising from the still air over the area. But when the scheduled racing began, a convenient cold front came through, dropping the temperature and lifting everyone's spirit with 10-15 knots from the NW.

The first race was an Olympic triangle with Uruguayan beauties Andrea and Mariana Foglia finding the first left shift and never looking back. The second day provided Northerly winds, lighter in the first race with 10-12 knots and picking up in the 2nd race to 12-15 knots. Bridget Hallawell and Shelly Suarez called the first shift in the first race, winning that race. Carolyn Krebs and Julie Redler rounded in first for all marks in the second race. The current was stronger pushing against the sailors on the left side, however, there was more pressure and distinct lifts far to the left in the second half of the beat. Tactics were challenging with very shifty conditions.

The fourth race of the series was sailed on Friday morning with a strong flood tide running directly against an 18 knots brisk breeze. In this shallow bay an impressive chop was present, making the boat handling tricky but exciting to watch. There were many capsize. Several boats chose not to sail or went in after taking a peek outside. Double triangles were sailed and the spray was flying. Once again the Foglia sisters demonstrated their heavy air confidence and sailed away from the fleet with a convincing win. After the last boat finished, everyone including the RC scrambled for the safety of the harbor, waiting for the wind to ease and the tide to switch. By 1400 the wind was 30 degrees fatter to the right, the tide was going out, and the bay was again flat calm

for a perfect afternoon race. Krebs/Redler won their second race, so at the end of the third day of racing she was leading the series with 1 1/2 point margin, however the next 8 boats were all within 2 points of each other. It was

anyone's regatta going into the last day.

The forecast for the final day was 5-10 knots from the Northeast with an afternoon sea breeze. The fleet sailed out in to a beautiful 8-knot morning. The first beat of the day found the whole fleet heading for the left corner to catch a ride on the stronger incoming current; except for Hallawell/Suarez who had a message from outer-space whispering "go right." They were hard to the right corner, all by themselves, when a 15-degree right shift came in allowing them a significant lead at the windward mark. The competition was fierce and they were back in fourth at the last leeward mark. The top four boats crossed each other in the dying breeze and the Foglias looked as if they were going to have another first. They had to cover Eickland/

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Photo: Julie Redler & Carolyn Brown Krebs celebrate!

Krefting to their left and Hallawell/Suarez behind and to their right as they approached the finish line. They tacked in front of Bridget forcing her to tack onto port (above the starboard layline), and the the Foglias were free to head for the line, above Eickland/Krefting. As the Foglias were about to cross the finish line near the pin end, Hallawell/Suarez reached down and spun around the committee boat a fraction of a second in front, surprising everyone. Great racing! Eickland/Krefting then won the last race of the series using the last breath of anything resembling wind, but that finish was not enough to beat Krebs/Redler for the series as they were close behind crossing in third.

Another great regatta and great sailing.
—Bill Welch

