

Mark Reynolds on Snipe Sailing and Success

Mark Reynolds can be considered one of the top sailors in the USA. He has been successful in sailing many different classes over the years. His success is also found in the Snipe Class where he competed with his family since 1977. I recently asked Mark a few questions to find out what he thinks of the Snipe Class and Snipe Sailing.

SCIRA USA: Tell us some of the best times you have sailed a Snipe with a family member.

Mark: I did most of my sailing with my wife including winning the Nationals and 2nd in the Worlds. One of the nice things about the Snipe is that you can sail with your spouse and be competitive at the top level, I can't do that in the Star!

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

Mark: Often when we sailed it wasn't just winning points on the race course, you had party points to win as well. It gave a whole new meaning to being a good "all around sailor".

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?

Mark: In the Snipe you not only learn to be a good tactician you also learn about ways to improve your performance through tuning the boat. The boat is a great tactical boat since it tacks very efficiently with little loss of speed. There's enough room in the one design rules that allows you to learn how to improve your speed through tuning and boat preparation. It also keeps the boat slowly evolving, keeping it modern and fun to sail.

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?

Mark: Sabot in my case (Opti to others). It teaches you tactics the best.

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

Mark: I bought a boat and rigged it myself in 1977.

SCIRA USA: With whom?

Mark: With my girlfriend at the time (now my wife).

SCIRA USA: Give me a list of some of the regatta titles that you are most proud of (say top 10) in any boat.

Mark: Star Worlds 1st twice, Olympic Gold twice, Olympic Silver, Pan Am Gold (Snipe), Snipe Worlds 2nd, Snipe Nationals 1st, Snipe Winter Circuit 1st 4 times, Star Bacardi Cup 1st 6 times, Laser Nationals 2nd, Laser NA's 2nd, Snipe NA's 1st, 3 times Farr 40 Worlds 1st.