

THE ROCK

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKAWAY OLYMPIC CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB
SPECIAL EDITION, AUGUST 15, 2010

ROCK MEMBERS WIN GOLD AT ICF WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 08/14/2010.

ROCK members Aleksandras Ambotas and Ivan Kireev, representing the United States, won a total of 8 medals (3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze) at the International Canoe Federation's Canoe Sprint Masters Championship, held in Poznan, Poland on Aug 14-15, 2010. Two hundred seventy three athletes from seventeen countries competed on the Lake Malta race course. Both Alek and Ivan competed in the 45-54 years old masters category.



Alek and Ivan in the K2/500 race

Alek won the silver medal in the men's 500 meter, single person (K-1 500) race, with a time of 1:51.1. The winner in this race was Arzt Thomas from Germany with a time 1:50.3. Thirty four paddlers competed in this race.

Alek and Ivan competed as partners in a tandem kayak in both the men's 500 and 2000 meter (K-2 500 and K2 2000) races, winning bronze medals in both. The gold and silver medals were won by German and Polish teams, respectively, in both races.

Alex and Ivan, joined by two athletes from Lithuania and paddling a four-person kayak, won the men's 2000 meter (K-4 2000) race, with a time of 7:08.047. They pulled way ahead of their nearest competitors, a boat from Poland, who crossed the finish line 7.3 seconds later to win the silver medal. Alek, joining three athletes from Lithuania, also won the men's K-4 500 race.

Back in the US, Alek says, "The race was very professionally run. The officials were superb and the event was well-organized, with all the races on-time. Ivan and I weren't used to the automatic gates, and this hurt us in the K2 events. We weren't able to keep the boat straight enough and this caused us to have a slow start. We started a boat length behind, but we caught up and missed out on second place by only a few hundredths of a second."

Congratulations, Alek and Ivan!

Race Results:

K1 500M M 45-54, Ambotas, 2nd Place, 1:51.172.

K2 500M M 45-54, Ambotas and Kireev, 3rd Place, 1:42.577.

K4 500M M 45-54, Bulovas, Bepalov, Srteltcov (Lithuania) and Ambotas, 1st Place, 1:33.982.

K2 2000M M45-54, Ambotas and Kireev, 3rd Place, 8:01.050.

K4 2000M M45-54, Bulova, Bepalov, Ambotas and Kireev, First Place, 7:08.047.

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