

Wags in Moscow

It had been far too long since my last visit to see the Eagle Dynamics team in Moscow, so I gathered my things and flew off to Moscow on the 24th of September to spend a week with the team. The basic goals being to discuss current and future projects, as well as putting some faces to names of new hires since my last visit. After a stop-over at JFK from Phoenix, it was another 10 hours until I arrived at a rainy Moscow. Just my luck, it continued to rain on and off my entire stay. Compared to Phoenix, it was quite chilly too... around a frigid 40 degrees F!

After meeting up with Oleg, Sasha, and Yuriy at the airport, it was off to my home away from home at the Holiday Inn Lesnaya in downtown Moscow. Much nicer than the Holiday Inn I'm used to in the states.



Figure 1. Holiday Inn Lesnaya in Moscow

After a restless night's sleep and waking up at 4 am, the next day four of the team members and I took the trek to Molino airfield 15 km outside of Moscow. Here are a couple of shots of our rainy drive to the airfield. For those that have not experienced it, Moscow traffic could be the worst/craziest I have ever experienced (LA has nothing on it). I'm not sure why they even bother painting lanes on the roads...



Figure 2. Leaving the hotel



Figure 3. Passing the big train station in Moscow

Molino is mostly an outdoor display of Russian aircraft ranging from the Second World War to the present day. Considering the harsh Russian winters, I was surprised at the good condition of the aircraft. For those interested in aviation, particularly Russian aviation, this is a must see. This was an opportunity for me to see many aircraft first hand that I had only seen in pictures previously.

Below (left to right) are Alex, "Ulrich", Sasha and Oleg ("Olgerd").



Figure 4. A motley crew, yes?

Here I am by a Yak-141. It really reminded me of the F-35 in several ways! Perhaps not as ugly though.



Figure 5. Yours truly



Figure 6. An amazing row of Su and MiG aircraft

The next day I visited the amazing Tretyakov art gallery. Although I'm generally not a huge fan of art galleries (history museums are more my speed), this was a fantastic museum and helps you better understand Russian culture and its people. Unfortunately, I forgot my camera that day!

Monday rolls around and it's off to the office. Since my last visit, the Moscow team had moved into a new office space, not too far from the old office. Compared to the old office, the new one is "space age". The Moscow team consists of about 25 people spread between four office rooms. There is also a second team in Minsk, Belorussia of about 25 people too (still need to visit them...).



Figure 7. Main hallway of Eagle offices

After a journey down a long hallway you reach the Igor's office (director of Eagle Dynamics). In here you have his office, the conference room and his assistant Julia and the office secretary.



Figure 8. The boss office

Two other offices are the same floor where most of the programmers and designers reside. The fourth office is on a lower floor of the building and has several of our artists.



Figure 9. Worker bee office

Like many software companies these days, much of our work force works from home now. However, most of the team is close by so they can come in at least once a week (generally for Monday staff meetings).



Figure 10. Another development office



Figure 11. Alex working hard on DCS: A-10C!

After a couple days of work it was time to unwind! There was a consensus that lots of beer should be involved, so about a dozen of us went off to a German restaurant that night. While the food was pretty terrible like most German food is (sorry German readers!), the beer was quite good and the conversation quite lively. It's always interesting to compare and contrast American and Russian views on such topics as Georgia, the Balkans, and the Cold War.



Figure 12. Dinner with the team

After three days of meetings, it was time to head home. This was certainly one of my better trips, and not being in the middle of January with ten feet of snow on the ground certainly helped! I'm already looking forward to my next trip.