Russians gear up for new Cold War as 1,800 brave skiers strip to bikinis and swim shorts on snowy

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With international tensions running high, Russians are proving they are ready and fit for a new Cold War.

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They braved almost freezing rain in a temperature of just above zero as they gathered at winter resort Sheregesh

The eighth annual GrelkaFest swimwear day saw little evidence of social distancing

Those taking part seemed to enjoy the semi-naked descent from Mount Zelenaya

Director Nikita Girin said people had travelled from all across Russia came to break free from 'the year of quarantines'

Nearly 2,000 people attended despite the cold

They braved almost freezing rain in a temperature of just above zero as they gathered at winter resort Sheregesh, in the Kemerovo region of Russia.

The eighth annual GrelkaFest swimwear day saw little evidence of social distancing for the semi-naked descent from Mount Zelenaya.

Director Nikita Girin said people had travelled from all across Russia came to break free from â€œthe year of quarantinesâ€•.

Months of home working â€œdid not affect the physical condition of our participantsâ€•, he said.

The swimsuit procession signals the end of the Siberian skiing season.

Sheregesh is Siberia's most developed downhill skiing resort, located in the Gornaia Shoria range.

Originally constructed as a mining settlement, in Stalinist times there was a local Gulag-forced labour nearby. Its 12,000 inmates built the local railway line.

It comes amid tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Russia is planning a major warship assault to seize Ukraine's water supply, military sources have claimed.

Ukraine military insiders believe that the "most likely" attack will be a maritime and land assault in the south from Russian-occupied Crimea.

â€œUkrainian military take these ships very seriously," a senior Ukraine military source told the Mirror.

â€œWe estimate one of the Russian scenarios could be an amphibious and air assault from occupied Crimea to seize water supply facilities in south Ukraine to provide water to Crimea.â€•

There has been a water crisis in Crimea since Russia illegally occupied the peninsula in 2014.

For the last several months, cities in the Russian-occupied Crimea have been rationing their water, reports have said.

Bikini-clad skiers and snowboarders took to the mountain

Brave Russians took to the slopes

More than 1,700 keen participants attended the event

- The Sun