

This was a fun and eventful race with some really difficult areas without wind to be navigated through!

From my own perspective the race began very well. I chose a more easterly track along with a few other boats. It proved to be a good choice. Unfortunately, we were completely without wind for a while and it was a late night for me. I chose bed and some sleep for a while, and sailing on TWA and a DC through the narrow passage, with a lot of luck! I managed to get out there in a very good position. The long straight track down to Cozumel offered almost no surprises, and the wind was pretty steady. Those who chose a slightly more westerly track got more wind as they approached Cozumel.

Upon rounding MustangMark has taken the lead with nearly 2 nm before me and WINSTON. Some others right behind were rafa , rumskib,nacrr, Neuroman and Henrys (who probably overslept and got himself a wide rounding and lost that distance) and many more. It was a really close race so far.

On the way back north towards New Orleans the field spread out. As we approached the target, about 100nm from New Orleans, another big wind shift with no wind in the centre hit the fleet. Some boats, including WINSTON and MustangMark, gybed westward, while boats like nacrr, rafa, rumskib and me continued north, which proved to be a winning concept. StIngFI, who had chosen a track long eastward sailed past the entire fleet and only a few hours from the finish was in front as #1.

The final distance was nerve-racking, where two different strategies took us up towards the target. I managed to get past StIngFI and also kept clear of the chasing boats behind. The east league strategy probably got a little help from the last WX as well.

I, Jepsom, eventually, became the lucky winner of this very fun race with StIngFI in a second spot and nacrr third – rumskib seemed to sleep a little long at the last rounding up against the goal and lost probably a creditable 4th place to 7th

Now I look forward to the 4th leg of RTW 2014 and later in May The Scandinavian Tour leg 2.

Thx SOL for making this possible and fun.

/Jepsom