

Iceberg Dodge TIMED Race -- July 2014

Obviously an important aspect of a timed race is to pick a favourable weather window. I usually begin with AGages WxInspector and look at a meteogram near the centre of the race course. In contrast to the previous timed race off Socotra, that had a pronounced diurnal cycle with not much variation from day to day, the weather forecast for the Iceberg race promised wind speeds up to 20 knots for the second half of Thursday the 24th through Friday the 25th of July with less than 10 knots for pretty much the rest of the scheduled race time. I decided the best opportunity would be to start between 1600 UT and 1800 UT on Thursday evening.

Unfortunately that is not the most convenient time for me, because I usually drive home from work and then have lunch at that time. Somewhat arbitrarily I set my start DC at 17:17:17, simply because I like these kinds of numbers. The SE wind was predicted to veer slightly, so I started on starboard tack with a TWA a little larger than the upwind target TWA appropriate for the prevailing wind speed of 18 to 19 knots.

My plan was to leave the first island on the way to starboard (Napassut Island, if I believe what geonames.org says), but when I first looked at the boat half an hour into the race, I found that it was heading right towards the shore. I decided to change the plan and leave Napassut Island to port. After a short leg on port for a little longer than a minute I tacked back to starboard and headed eastward towards the Greenland mainland.

The next tack at about 1800 UT close to the Greenland shore allowed me to pass south through the sound between Quiartorfik Island and the Greenland mainland. Following the game plan I tacked back towards east at the first opportunity after leaving the sound at about 1855 UT. One more tack at about 1915 UT allowed me to fetch the easternmost point of Tallorutit Island.

After rounding at about 1925 UT it was more or less straight line sailing on a broad reach in an increasing wind along the south shore of Tallorutit Island towards Qeqertarsuaq Island. After rounding the Kobberminebugt SW mark shortly after 2130 UT it was a 2 mile run in a good 22 to 23 knots breeze with just one gybe. The last leg from the Kobberminebugt NW mark towards the leeward end of the finish line was a close reach in a more or less straight line.

*July 2014
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