

The screen of the White Wizard, my quite new, very sexy Toshiba laptop caught the plague this morning. A black blemish has developed in the bottom right corner and is sending lines of interference up and across leaving only half a screen that is legible. There's a lot to do if bonknhoot is going to make the start of the Vineyard Race in good shape for Friday evening, so briefly...

Seoul is a difficult place to get to is Seoul (Seoul to Seoul, lol), and after a week of light winds a few SOLers are perhaps wondering why they bothered. Of course, the reality is that during a TT there is always going to be one weather window when the best times are put on the board and whether this turns out to be a balmy F3 coming off the shore or a gale coming in from the Yellow Sea makes no difference. What does matter is when that window occurs, and for the sake of the racing, it was unfortunate that this was almost straight away for this one.

Rumskib sang the praises of the Wind Inspector tool (<http://agage.sol.hmm.iki.fi/WxInspector.html>) some time ago, and explained how he uses it to shoot a quick Wind Profile for the week ahead for somewhere in the middle of the race area. The other thing about that tool is that you can log onto it as user Sol, password Sol, and if you do that you can already get an appreciation of the weather ahead well before a race opens. And so it was, I suspect, that a few of us knew it was important to get a run in early and sacrificing some sleep for it. As so often, there was a trade-off between angle and pressure to be considered. Departing earlier would give you less pressure but better angle and of course an earlier retirement to bed, departing a little later the reverse. Angle is often worth more than pressure, but on this occasion it proved better to sacrifice some sleep and opt for more pressure. Discovering this was a simple matter of pure luck, driven by the basic strategy of waiting for the usual suspects sitting on the line to start. Winston4 went early, then Rafa and Rumskib, but a lot of others continued to hold fire, so I waited some more as well, until I figured they hadn't figured. Bingo!

As it turned out, there was one even better strategy, based around the principle of 'time on the water', which I will leave to xmariner to explain further!

Chapeau xmariner!

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