

Race Report:

Safety at Sea Triple Series 2014 Evolution Sails 100

Sailing on the Hauraki Gulf is always fun. We started on a quick upwind leg to the south tip of the Motutapu island. As is the case on most Friday races I started on DC. Unfortunately I went south on a not optimum angle, (hard to foresee way in advance the right angle). By the time I turn the island "zero" was 19th on the leaderboard.

Then it was a long reaching leg to the Little Barrier Island with the wind stead increasing from the East and shifting right (East). The temptation was to go a bit east of the rhumb line to catch the stronger pressures, but given the hollow on the polar curves it was best to follow the rhumb line and in fact slip ever so often to the west in order to get to the island at TWA=80 deg or there about. The plan paid out nicely and "zero" got to the island in 4th virtually tie for 3rd with Neuroman. Rumskib and Javakeda a bit ahead.

The leg back to the finish was a close hauled with more pressure on the East and the wind continuing shifting right. Not enough shifting to force a tack. I basically sailed east of the rhumb line in order to get to Rangitoto island with a better angle. Javakeda sailed close to the rhumb line and for most part of the leg extend his leading. We all compressed again getting close to the island due to the fact that the eastern boats had slight better angle and pressure, but not enough to cause any substantial changes on the leaderboard.

Unfortunately for Rumskib he had to finish the race on DC and I sailed past his boat to finish second. Javakeda crossed the line in first place, 'zero' second and 'Tyger' third. (Neuroman was right behind me but he must have to abandon at the very end and slipped back). This was one of those races that demanded full attention. Thanks again to all sailonline organizers for this wonderful platform.

Antonio, "zero" / September 2014