

The Masirah Sprint

Well, in Italy the Masirah was raced in the night.

A quiet night in late October for a nice and technical race. Once Fixed SWR Leg1 that, for where I was, it was going itself at least until Fernando, I decided about the sprint one: ok, I do it.

Started with direct routes and with a couple of gybes to Al Kalban, once passed Masirah S, the technical part of the race was going to start: watching the best upwind's twa, varying with the intensity of the wind, there was to tacking along the coast to get advantage of the shift to the left before spreading eastwards to the wide, keeping the next shift on the right side. So calculate the point for last tack towards Shiiniz, and then the arrival.

Simple, easy. Perhaps not so much in the night-time, but simple, easy!

OK. When I've passed Masirah S, I was virtually on the podium. Winston, Zero, Franci, Sassy, rafa, karaoke, etc, they were all close, sure, but just control them to not lose position.

So, after being at the helm for all the tacking, at the end, I put a dc for tacking to the north, a second dc not too risky far from the shore enough to return to the east, a final dc approximate for Shiiniz and an usual alarm before the latter dc to check that everything was ok.

Simple and easy.

But tragedy! In Italy, at 3 am, the daylight savings time had taken off.

This, probably, caused a crash on my pc clock, misaligning it with the UTC and SOL clock, and delaying about 10 minutes the DC timing! (note that I realized this only in the morning after). The alarm clock woke me up when I was about a quarter of an hour on the rocks, and now 20th. Tragedy!

I was angry with myself because I thought I had miscalculated something, but (I must confess) I also doubted the accuracy of the predictor SOL! Never happened before!

However, I removed my boat from the rocks and I put it on course for the last two tacks, and I went to sleep, for what a little was left of the night, leaving on the morning after the last possible correction to Shiiniz, and dc to the finish line.

On next morning, around 6:00 utc, finally I realized that the SOL clock was not aligned with the clock of my PC.

Now I was undecided whether or not to run the Corsica sprint. Still I had not seen NOR, Polar and weather. I was still mad for the Masirah sprint threw away. I was late 'cause I had IRL regatta too, and I was losing time crying on Masirah missed.

I was too late also to remember what was the steps to realign SOL with PC clock and so.....

..... Panic!