

Race Report:

Masirah Circuit 2014

This was a short race, about 11 hour's duration, around an island in the Arabian Sea.

We started with the kite up going downwind with light wind. The trick here was to keep sailing near the coast line to take advantage of the wind shift. The wind was slowly shifting left (West) throughout the leg. So, that required a few gybes on the leg down to Al Kalban. I had the misfortune to forget an old DC and went thru a double gybe in a very short period with a performance loss that cost me two places.

The fleet then hugged the south coast to Masirah point and turned up wind for the leg up the east coast of the island. Now that was interesting. The options were either zig zag near the coast to take advantage of the wind shift or extend the tack offshore to take advantage of higher wind pressure. Well sailors, how many times have we seen this dilemma in sailing? And the answer is almost always in favor of the going-for-the-wind-shift. I didn't even think twice and was the first boat to tack back toward the coast and never stayed more than 1.5 nm offshore. Hard to take this decision when we see very good sailors extending the tack offshore. But it became clear very soon on the leg that I had the lead.

A few miles on the leg the wind stopped shifting left and actually it reverted to shift right. That meant going offshore we would get better wind pressure and better angle, so, the question then was to pick the right time to start extended the tack offshore. Here is where a bit of lucky helps. Wiston and Karaoke had probably stayed near the coast a bit too long and Rafa tacked east a millisecond too soon and Zero just got right. There is no science to pick the exact spot to tack, it was luck.

I round Shiiniz ahead and from there it was a straight shot to the finish. I fell asleep at the last leg and didn't see my boat crossing the line. Karaoke in second, sir Winston third and señor Rafa in fourth.

All in all another sailonline great adventure. Thanks to all that participated.

Zero / October 2014

