

## Gasparilla Raid 2014

In the beginning of the race we all have goals and expectation, how to race and what place hopefully we end up. So I was hoping to be in the first 20ties assuming I will pay attention and internet connection will not fail.

Most boats left to the Gulf thru Boca Pass, some further down inlet waters and thru Captiva Pass. First leg to the Treasure Ship Mark was straight forward. Both group joined and I found myself in close range to the leading rumskib.

After rounding the Mark I grabbed the treasure and then I heard the voice of Gasparilla- "Maduro, don't follow the leader, go south and sail along the rumblines. I did that and the rest is history.

On a serious note I took the lead to Isla Perez, sailing together with Ned\_Leo while watching closely the northern group.

After rounding Isla Perez I went north seeking stronger wind while rumskib took the lead again by turning east. I knew that I can't go too far north, and using the weather slider I noticed favorable conditions brewing on the east side of the course and toward the finish line.

I went east having stronger winds than the leading group. Knowing they have to gybe sooner or later I wanted to be the last one, with room to accelerate and trim my bearing toward the finish line by using COG and TWA interchangeably. I managed to gybe in the right spot and took lead in last 6 or so hours. That was the story of the last gybe.

Thanks to all SOLers. Without you that would never happened. I didn't use any additional software just the SOL screen. I found that paying attention to the weather, leader's movements and mostly believing in my own judgment is the way to be close to the top and sometimes win. – Or maybe it was that whisper of Gasparilla which did the trick. 😊

maduro / November 2014