

# St. Nicholas Island dash Race report

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I am not good at Sprints ! I am not daring to calculate server jumps turning rocks and WPs. But I finished First in the 24<sup>th</sup> and last leg of the Sprint Races Championship 2014 . The only "Sprint" characteristic of this race was in fact the very short duration . MustangMark is to be complimented for putting together so many challenging PYOC Sprint races this year , but in this case the wind direction took any choice away from the fleet.

From start to end this race has been extremely technical , thus intense .

The first downwind leg was a good mixture of VMC to speed towards better breeze , slowly changing into VMG approaching the jibe . Either a router , or very good use of all the tools available to solers ( agage – brained – hmm ) could place a boat near the lead at the end of this leg. The alternative would have been constant steering and constant change with constant calculating.

At the end of the starboard downwind leg I noticed that , although a bit further down than others , I jybed slightly later . I thought that a good majority of the fleet did not account for the exact opposite technicality of the second leg , but I guess some jybed slightly early , banking on a possible change of shift at the 2230Z update .

As soon as the last leg started I was very pleased with my downwind leverage on the majority of the fleet , and was happy to be able to finish well ( that was my objective ) . Slightly behind , but with a leverage on me there were ATLET and NOR\_VAN TRO . I felt that atlet was going to make it till about one hour prior to finish. When I saw he was coming upwind and losing the leverage rapidly , I thought I had a chance to win .

As I said the second leg was highly technical too : max vmg after the jybe , and smooth change to vmc approaching the finish , due to impending lighter breeze and gentle shift . A race that appeared very easy turned into a demanding and challenging one.

I never planned to invest energies on the Sprint Championship this year . I only participated to few races towards the end of 2014 to be able to make myself a nice award certificate for ending up top 100 in the series ! ;))).

The victory in the last leg was a bit of a Xmas gift . ;))

Thank you all for your continued friendship , and for making SOL a unique place where to be . !!

WINSTON\_4

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