

BOSTON TO NEWPORT RACE 2015

Before starting, I really thought this race would take longer to complete. Living on the US west coast, my thinking was to do well at the beginning, set a few DCs and go to bed. Many competitors would be dozing off earlier so I might get out front in a good position. But the race was faster than I expected and being in the lead somehow kept me awake. I stuck with it to the end.

The sail to the first mark was the part that took some strategy - and luck. The key was how far north should I go to obtain slightly higher wind with optimum twa and, hopefully, better vmc. At the mark I was surprised to see that my FP39 was in the top three - but only by the slimmest of margins.

The winds were steady and the J30 polar is very smooth. So, from there to the finish, it was a matter of turning the corners properly and drag race to the next one. Many times I thought Rhino, Dingo, Rumsqib and others would be passing me by. But I guess cleaning the bottom made my boat a touch faster this time.

fastpassage39 / January 2015