

Simushir SPRINT race report – WINSTON_4

This race offered two sets of difficulties :

- 1) Starting at midnight in Europe . We knew it was our turn to “suffer” ;)
- 2) The choice of the route (E or W of the island) . Both offered very similar results for long , so a decision was not easy to make . Besides , the 2230Z update , immediately after the start , could have easily jeopardized any good choice . Luckily it did not happen .

The winds were very light ; great pity for the opportunity to fly on the cat 30ftThe good news was that , being a race 99% upwind , with light winds the upwind vmg angle that the cat 30ft offers are very similar to normality ;))

In actual facts that characteristic was the only opportunity anyone had to outsmart the competition , and I was the one who used more than anybody else that opportunity : it was clear that towards the end of the northerly starboard tack taking the fleet near the finish line , the wind was decreasing sensibly . In that case I expected correctly to be able to use lower vmg and therefore better upwind angle towards the end of that stretch . This meant that I tacked earlier than my opposition to go north , and , rather than pinching up , I could make good speed footing a bit at the beginning of the stretch in better breeze .

It almost worked fine , as I flew away downwind of the opposition . The rule in SOL is 99% of the time angle is more valuable than pressure even in light breeze , and two of the windward boats took that advantage at the end of the stretch , presenting themselves for the final turn those enough cents of a mile in front . Congratulations to them !!

A good sleepless night worth a podium .!! ;))

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