

## Simushir Sprint Race - 29th March 2015

Sprint races are normally decided by seconds and one has to take into account things like performance loss, "blind" turns on corners (that is turning during a boat jump). I'm not particularly skilled on these - grounded sometimes while trying to turn at the right moment and never managed to "optimise" turns to minimise performance loss. Not to mention precise and constant steering, in this case during the night in Portugal. Nevertheless, short races are always fun. Off we go.

The first question to address was which route to take, the east route or west route to the entrance of the caldera on the extreme north of the island. I was planning to go west but the last (16:30) wx before the start made me change my mind. So east was going to be. Not surprisingly, most of the strongest SOLers also took this option.

In the start we had to negotiate a big shift in light airs with the wind later stabilising at 69°. So I set my initial VMC to that bearing.

The new 22:30 wx brought a slight wind rotation to the north to around 64° (after settling). I set this new target and my first tack was brought forward by 16 minutes. From this moment on, the big problem was to negotiate the small variations of the wind angle and find the perfect layline.

This situation led me to choose just 2 tacks to find the layline. rumskib crossed slightly ahead of me before my last tack and I believe (hard to tell due to the jumps of the boats) I was second ahead of WINSTON\_4 and Neuroman.

Now we faced 2 hours beating to the northern point of the island. I liked where I was and I believe I could have had a chance since I had a slightly better angle than rumskib.

However, sleep crept in and I decided to set a TWA course and set the alarm clock.

Waking up, I was slightly off course which I managed to correct in time to avoid losing the 2nd place before the last turn to the line.

nacrr