

Racereport Newport->Ensenada

As usual, it is important to get a good start on those little shorter races. The expected shift from SW to NW told me to go a southwesterly bow and tack in between the two islands. Then a short dragrace to San Clemente Island and I think I was about 10th or something like that. It was very tight and boats west of , as well as boats east of me, rounded ahead. Just a few decimals on the leaderboard separated us.

Next Question: Which way to meet next shift? More out west is more wind. Straight lay and more east , a small difference, but better angle.

I chose more west and more wind. I put a DC in after some manual counting and when I woke up a small miracle have turned out. Only a few boat were west of me and for the first time I suddenly realized that I was fighting for the podium. So, what to do next? In real life-sailing I am responsible for the tactics and strategies on a X35 and I think this time it helped me alot. I gybed a short one and back, just to put myself in between outlaw/A2 and the finishline. After that I tried to figured out where and when to gybe and head for the line. The answer for me was , do not wait...gybe!

Rafa was one of the boats who gybed first . I really thought he did it too early. I put him on my shortlist anyway, I mean Rafa is almost always a threat.

A2 gybes! I was waiting an other minute and outlaw gybed too. Now it become easy for me! Another gybe just to stay in "covermode". After that it wasn't more than a maximum of +/-0.07nm between me and outlaw, all the way in.

For a while I also had to keep an eye on Rumsbib. He went more south than others before gybing and for us who "know" him it's easy to understand why. (1-1-1-1-1-1-2-2-3) His latest top ten results on the SYC-ranking. Impressive 😊

Rafa climbed up the leaderboard and when it was about 2 hours left I realized that he, along with outlaw and A2 , were the ones I fought with for the podium. After the last island I started to believe that I really could win, but it wasn't until last minute it was reality.

I beat outlaw with only 7 seconds. Yees! More than enough 😊

A2 and Rafa ended up 3:rd and 4:th, less than a minute after. A really tight one which kept me at the helm alot last part and it was worth it 😊 It was a looong time since last victory.

Now back to SWR and try to figure out how to sail the last +3000nm 😊

Thank you all for the race !

Jepsom / April 2015