

SOUTH ATLANTIC CHASE 2015

It was kind of a last minute decision to start in this race since it was severely crashing with a work meeting which happened to be rescheduled that very morning.

Planning for the race I liked the fact that a big portion of it was a long upwind leg, and also the starting time was very suitable for my time zone, starting at 1pm local time, so not a lot of sleep sacrifice would be required!

It was not easy to plan the upwind leg since there was no obvious favored side. A strategy of playing the wind shifts conflicted with a strategy of looking for more wind pressure. So basically I decided to play the center of the course and take opportunities as they appeared.

With this strategy when the upwind leg finished in Sea Lions Islands I was in the top five of the ranking, but several boats were distanced by just a few seconds, so things could change pretty much.

The leg from Sea Lions Island to the finish was the easiest part of the race. Just go straight and maneuver to pass between Speedwell Island and George Island and head to the finish or alternatively steer north of Speedwell Island.

Seemed easy, but it was already midnight for me so I decided to DC my route to the finish. Considering that lately my DC's haven't been very precise I had to set wide turns, but wide turns would for sure take away any chance of a podium finish, considering the strong and tight competition. So I also set the alarm clock hoping to wake up in time to steer south of Speedwell Island.

When I woke up south of Speedwell my ranking was not as good as before since several boats north of the Island were ahead. Nevertheless I was second or third in the south group, and we had a better angle towards the finish, so I still had a chance for a podium finish.

So I set a direct route to the favored end of the finish line and went back to sleep.

Big surprise when I woke up: I had won the race!!! Honestly I don't know how it happened, but the leaderboard was there with top solers Rumsik and Dingo sharing the podium with me with a very narrow margin.

Congrats to both of them!! and to all boats that finished this race, and very sorry I was not awake at the finish line to receive and thank the several congrats messages written in the chat. Thanks to all!!

Rafa, May 2015