

Not even in my dreams I could imagine to win another leg of this world trip :-)

In a chat. when the race was just begun, I read "who'll be first in Recife will win the race"...it was not going to be that easy...

The race started to get interesting north of Rio de Janeiro, with router always suggesting to go east through the high to find more pressure and then head north, but a passage seemed to open next to the coast: I waited one wx in excess before to go for it and that meant to be in Recife 8 hours, going to rapidly increase, behind Kenza, Hmm and Peskasail who were leading with a comfortable advantage and getting in stronger winds.

At this point the leaders seemed to have no doubts about where to pass that sort of belt of high pressure, that in some days was uninterrupted from Florida to Europe, and kept going north; this let open the chance of a big separation going west towards the Caribbean Sea and I was very happy that only Bonkhoot and FastFlo before me made this decision. They then became my targets, Bonk almost 40 miles ahead and Flo much closer but still 6/8 miles from me...

It was a long chase, while leaders were running away increasing their advantage... Flo opened the door when a couple of times was tempted from VMC and when we reached Trinidad and Tobago I was ahead. At this time I was already sure that I was going to pass between Puerto Rico and La Republica Dominicana, whatever the router was going to say and so before Tobago, with Flo, I went west again...while Bonkhoot hesitated few hours more, which costed him much of the advantage he still had...might even be a solitary victory ;)

We were now more than 400 nm behind leaders with just 1800 to go for us, but our decisions started to pay back and in 72 hours we were leading the race!! :-))

This time no doubts, next to coastline...Wx after wx it was always clearer that we took the right choices and that was going to be a question between Bonk and me for victory as Flo again went for VMC losing many nm...Last days of fun with Bonk, fighting for 0,01 till the night of the last two gybes when I fell asleep first, losing my control position, but Bonk did the same a couple of hours later and, even worst for him, again in the morning... I just had to make no big mistakes till the line; and with my great wonder good luck was on my side again and I was able to win another leg :-)))

Thank you very much all, but particularly to all those who make this game possible.

Andrea