

One could easily write a 100 pages book about this 53nm – 32 hours (SPRINT ... ;)))) race on a quite fast 60 footerORcould just say.....nothing ...and it would be about the same.

It is very true that wx routers are totally useless in Sprints around the cans (and this one was).

It is also very true that in this particular instance a wx router was extremely needed to understand where to go and how to deal best with the peculiarities of the polar in light breeze.

One example for all: At the start all the boats headed for a logic reach in the direction of the course. Only two boats went away from the course , towards fresher incoming breeze , and positioning to better deal with subsequent first of many shifts in wind holeRum and WINThat suggests something.

Routers have one major drawback in light winds: the lower the TWS, the lower the reliability they offer...BUTsome of the veterans in SOL may remember a couple of statements that were offered more than once in the past (one from me and one from 76T)

I said many many times in the past that everyone should try using a wx router for one reason of paramount importance: they are GREAT TUITION!!!!....you see how the router deals with the course , the polar , the wind strength , and you learn how the router “ THINKS”to the extent that one day you will not need any longer the router to tell you what is best , because you were expecting the answer anyway. You will just use it to double check your opinion.

76T said once, and it is still somewhere in Forum, that. If 300 boats use a router, one will win the race and one will arrive 300th. This means that you also need to know how to use a router at best.

Pico Island race was a perfect combination of the two concepts. To respond to AZUR , who , at the end of the race asked how I did it : I expected the router answers , but I was also able to adjust them to my needs to maintain a tactical position that proved of paramount importance when the wx changed dramatically , sending out of the window any previous router results.

It happened twice, the second time at 0430 on Sunday: a huge change that gave new hopes to the boats to the left of the fleet. Being positioned in the middle of the field gave me the possibility to counteract that.

The unusual distance with the rest of the fleet was built in two well defined occasions of “rich get richer” : the first in increasing breeze when we turned the easterly island cape in the middle of the night. That made few cents of a mile into a more than half mile lead. The second and last just before the finish.

One special note for Neuroman : he had “an incident” towards the eastern cape of Pico , and lost contact with me. (He was VERY close !!) ...His come back in the second part of the race was extraordinary !!!! hat off !! ;))

I did run in this race because finishing within 5 boats from Legend Lou would have given me the Plaque for Q2 SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP.....The result was well beyond any plan and/or expectation, but the suffering was too... ;)))

Ciao ALL!!WIN

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