

The start was not any different from any other sprint: lots jockeying for first place with lots of server jitter on ranking.

I was ranking in the mid-30s without any expectation of making podium until midnight. Up to that time, I was enjoying the view of the volcanoes and small towns (Madalena, Lajes...) without thinking tactics too much.

After rounding Manheta on the east cape, I realized I could make it in the top 10. From Sao Roque, I was 4th and the competition was tight. The wind was backing, but there was no way to go further south as we were hugging the coast as much as we could. The light wind meant light penalties, which allowed many tacks. The wind started to become stronger off shore, but was still backing; so there was no point of leaving shore to get an extra boost.

Around 1600 rumskib has to excuse himself for an hour or so (dinner time in Germany?) and beached very close to the finish line. I moved to 3rd place, tried hard to get ahead of Lou, but he beat me by 11s. Winston\_4 was his excellent self and there was no way to catch up with him from very early.

I really enjoyed this race, despite the extra long duration of this "sprint". Thanks to all for the competition.

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