

Thanks to Sailonline.org for the excellent opportunity to participate in the historic 52nd Aegean Rally off the coast of Greece.

### **Race 1**

In the preparation of the strategy for the race, I tried to take into account the following points:

- Boat TP-52 with a change of course significantly loses speed and then it does not regain speed quickly
- The wind in the Gulf of Athens was not quite steady for two days
- Between the start and the first signs are already 12 o'clock area of weak wind

Then start the race course SE trying to pass between the island Flevis and the coast. It is very important to go closer to the island, and it is desirable to be first position. On this segment was difficult balance between the desire to get out into the fresh wind and cut turnaround in the weak wind. Those who were able to find the optimal path raced for the podium.

But the key point for me was the last turn to finished route (as it turned out, not the last). After the second mark, I felt confident and plotted until the end of the race. And turn to finish ...the segment has been planned for 15-20 minutes until the new forecasts. It seemed that the risk is minimal, and the possible changes in the weather can be compensated after Island Ydra.

peskasail played interesting. He moved around the local spot of calm in the west, winning in my speed. And after passing Kolpos idras his position was alarming to me. There was nothing I could do. All that can be done is to stick to the optimal trajectory. Fortunately my calculations proved correct.

Well, I have, after a successful finish in the first race, had a chance to fight for the win on points in the series.

### **Race 2**

The weather forecast almost guaranteed us a very complicated positional struggle throughout the race. Only one time where you could win (or lose) expects almost finish.

To Piperi Island leaders group stuck to the same tactics.

It is necessary to underline that the grid of weather with high resolution gives great opportunities to players. Thank ita10267!

Absolute leader was peskasail. His gap is 20 seconds, was win virtually. But then a strange happened: first javakeda, and then nacrr and peskasail, went to tacking before turning. That would be justified on other types of boats, but the boat TP-52 very quickly loses speed, and is slowly gaining. Opponents gave me two turns on a short distance!

With a sinking heart I followed the changes in the positions of opponents. Everything happened as I expected. It was possible to reach a leadership position, but with a very small margin.

This was far from boring. The new weather forecast, too, added to the severity of the situation. The playoff for the podium happened only at the finish line (finish curve :)).

Great races, strong competitors, jolly weather - 52nd Aegean Rally was a success!

Once again I want to thank the volunteers running Sailonline.org - good work.