

I have decided to make an exception to my personal rule to send race reports in only if I finish on podium . WIN's result in this race has been 6<sup>th</sup> , but this is not really a "race report ". It is more an "apology ";))

In fall 2009 the former SOL Management decided to launch a TIMED race across the Atlantic from Boston to Plymouth, open for the whole month of November, using an Orange cat 125.

The race turned out to be great fun, with multiple opportunities to achieve a record time, and the Winner, rafa, completed his best run in just over four days. Over 1750 runs were attempted by the community.

Many veteran Solers do remember that race as one of great fun, if not the best ever raced in SOL. For this reason we in SRC had a replica of that race in mind for longtime during the last year or so.

I was the one who suggested the replica, and the one who wanted it in the second part of 2015, and am the one to blame for the non-comparable success of it as opposed to the original 2009 experience.

Mainly two reasons combined together:

- 1) Wrong month – In September the Lows run across the Atlantic at a latitude that does not allow pure great circle runs, thus increasing needed course length and time to finish.
- 2) Wrong boat – Intrigued by the stellar speed of the GB90 , I underestimated the fact that at TWS 20 knots or higher its max downwind VMG goes down in the area of around 125 TWA , ruining completely the path of the downwind course needed to complete a fast run . Furthermore the top speed of the GB90 often beats the speed of the WX fronts, managing to ride them for too little time.

Having said this, my full apologies to the entire community for wrong planning. The only way I have to amend this is to promise a Transat TIMED from Boston to Plymouth in 2016 ....in November ...and with Orange cat 125 !! ☺

As to this year's race, there was only one acceptable window, that resulted in a run of about 5.5 days. Those boats that have been defined in chat by others as .....” Big dogs “ .....”Heavy artillery “.....”usual suspects” ....etc. did pick that window and started their runs within a frame of about 3 hours. The WX updates of the 5 following days decided which spot in that frame of 3 hours was the best one for a final score. The winner and podiers did fully deserve their score within the pack who choose the window.

By the way .....as I was one of them, I would like all of you guys to take a note for next time:

When you see WIN in a pack of leaders .....define them ....” Big dogs ....plus one old and fat wolf “....it sounds more friendly!! ...LOL

I hope you have enjoyed my report (and apology) more than the race itself .... ;))

Ciao ALL !! .....WIN