

The following words started my report for Pico Island race (that I won) last year:

..... "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....."

When I looked at the course this year, and saw that the winds would be flickering and shifting again, I prepared myself for another bash of masochism ;))

It turned out that theTWS was not as bad as in 2015, and the use of seacart 30 would help a lot. In actual facts the race was quite quick, given the variable winds (especially TWS)

The Hires WX makes of every Sprint race a highly technical one, where all the smallest characteristics of any polar need very careful attention. This, plus the quickly changing TWS along the course, made of Pico 2016 a very very tricky course to race, albeit in much less time than the year before.

Three moments (IMO) have been the topics of the race:

1 – On the approach to Manhonha that was reach becoming close hauling in strong shift to the right Lou and Bonk decided to tackle the shift running towards it as one should do in a longer stretch , and their move did not pay.

2 – In the upper part of the island the polar and TWS quick changes imposed apparently unreasonable polar hops between TWA 110 and 70 (circa), that unbalanced a little the leading part of the fleet. Rumskib and I followed that strategy fully, and increased the lead on the rest of the front runners. I felt very very bad when I saw Rumskib hitting the brown.

3 – I was leading from Manhonha with very small margin all the way and towards the end we started the downwind jibes to reach the finish line. Here I made a mistake that I could not avoid making: I had to cover the fleet, and respond to their jibes, to be sure to maintain lead in a wind shifting to the left and therefore demanding jibes. Zero was in excellent position, but did not have the pressure to cover the fleet, so he extended his jibes that little more that allowed him to have better perf loss after each jibe. When I came down the last stretch I was well under 90% (because same number of jibes, but too close to each other)

Zero won the race by 7 seconds, and I was lucky to keep the second place.

I did lead this race till the very endAs I said in chat , the one who took it from me is one of the best Gentlemen and Sportsmen within the community , and I can only beEXTREMELY HAPPY !!!!!

BRAVO ANTONIOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO !!!!!!!!!!!

Besidesmy goal in each Championship race is ..." DO WELL " ...and that goal has been more than achieved in Pico .;)))

Ciao ALL!!WIN