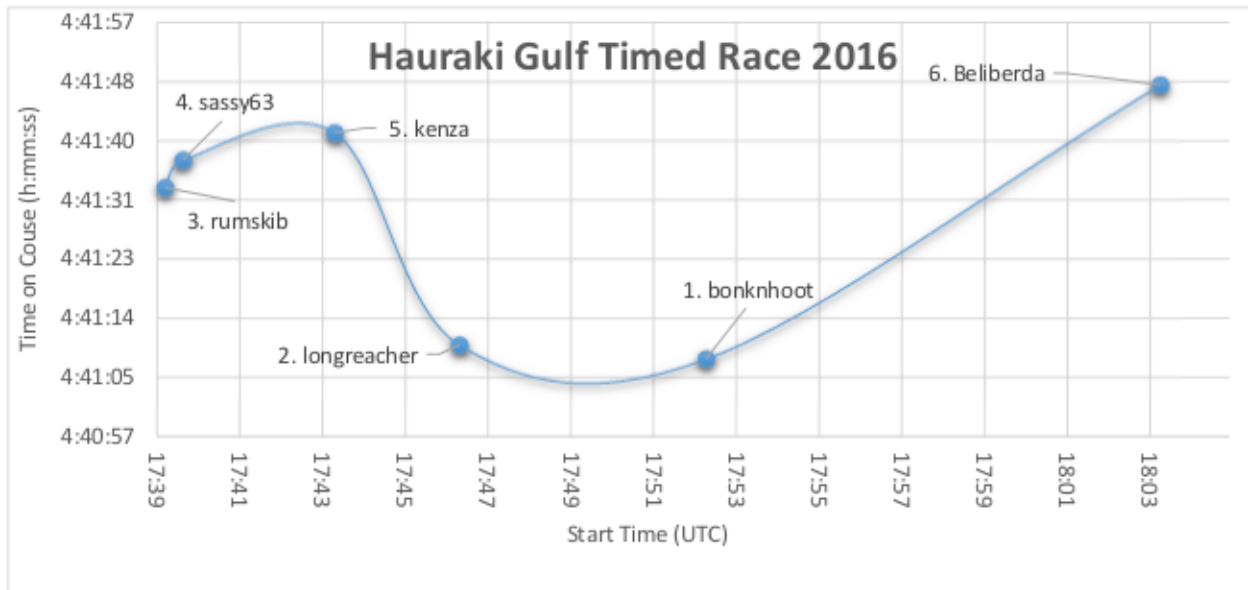


## Hauraki Gulf Timed Race 2016

Having put in a decent run at when this race opened, I was eagerly watching the weather, to see if there would be an opportunity to improve. To my good fortune, a window seemed to be opening up on an afternoon when I'd have some time to make sure my Young 11 stayed on course. I kept one eye to the weather, and another eye on the big dogs that I expected would be heading out to try a run. Sure enough, there were *rumskib* and *kenza* among others... Time to go. After that, it was a game of follow the leaders around the marks.

There were a couple of spots where I lost a bit of time... The first was at the Rocky Bay Buoy. It was really a risk vs. reward situation. Do I dare make the turn between updates and risk hitting the buoy, or go play it safe and go long. I went a bit long, thinking, "Well, it's probably only difference of 5 or 6 seconds, what difference could that make?" My second error was my dash to the line. I think I hit it a bit far south, opting for boat speed over distance a bit more than most of the guys that were out with me. Again, probably only a second or two of difference.

I hit the line feeling pretty good about my run, I was a half a minute ahead of the guys who came out ahead of me. *Bonknhoot* was coming behind me, and offered congratulations. I thanked him and said "We'll see how long it holds up" .... Turns out, the answer was "6 minutes" as *bonk* crossed the line, having beaten me by 2 seconds.



Tight racing, with the top 9 finishers all within a minute of one another, all having started within a half hour. Thanks to the SOL crew for putting this race together!

-longreacher