

Groote PYOC Sprint 2016

Race Report by "zero"

We sailed around the largest island in the Gulf of Carpentaria in northeastern Australia (source: Wikipedia). Racing on a fast 60' Trimaran. To make sailing more interesting, mother nature thru us a steady 23 to 24 knots of true wind speed. Yes, baby, this was one of those if-you-blink-you-are-on-the-rocks races.

A quick back-of-the-envelope calculation during pre-start preparation, showed the northern route the way to go. Most of us picked that route. The challenge then was to navigate the shortest course with several corners and small passages on a vessel doing 20+ knots of boat speed. Don't we like Sailonline?

Near the final stage of the race, there was a small island right in the way of the lay line. So, the question was; keep sailing NE and tack East of the island or tack sooner to pass West of the island which meant two extra tacks?

Given the boat and wind speed, I thought that the performance loss of having to do two extra tacks would make "zero" to loose places. So, I kept sailing West and I tacked above the lay line and bear-away to the next corner.

The truth is, until that last tack I didn't even look at my competition; my concentration went all to steer "zero". Only after I did that last tack, East of the island, that I looked around to see who was sailing close by. Not surprisingly there was a split of opinions between the boats near-by. "Smo", "bonknhoot", "WINSTON\_4" and "MustangMark" tacked West of the Island, "zero", "Henry's", "CollegeFund" and "rumskib" kept sailing and tacked East of the Island.

I really thought that the group that tacked sooner would lose big.

Well, not so much, the final leaderboard shows both groups of boats alternating positions. "Smo" who tacked sooner beat "zero" who tacked East, followed by "MustangMark" that tacked West, then "Henry's" that tacked East, and so on. Really interesting.

Congrats to "Smo" that once again pulled the golden rug under my feet. You are dangerous. (In a complimentary way of speaking). As you mentioned in the chat, after the race, "*... it is all about performance loss management...*". Well, you are indeed the master of performance loss management.

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Thanks to all participants and the volunteers of Sailonline.org.

Antonio "zero"