

I rarely write an actual race report, probably because I am spending too long dreaming up the medal designs for each race and figuring how to make them, but on 11 August when I logged on to find myself beached, I decided I should, for once, write something.

### **Hopa to Riva**

RainbowChaser took a fairly conservative curve from Hopa to Riva, a group of zigzag DCs were intended to bring her nicely to the turning point for the Bosphorus, but instead they fell short and by the time her skipper was at the helm (via Android App) early on 11 August she and her crew were close to a first bbq on mainland Turkey. A quick course was set, including a DC, on the Android App which resulted in a brief stopover on a small islet offshore at 41.2336, 29.2224:



### **The Bosphorus**

Sailonline transits the Bosphorus at least once a year, sometimes more when the Timed Race through the straits is held, so its twists and turns have become quite familiar but I never lose the sense of wonder from the brilliant Sailonline's Guided Tour of Turkey, created initially for this race by SOLer TUR\_AC505. Google Earth (via Sailonline's Google Earth Feed) also helps one sightsee while sailing as it brings our fleet, slightly offset, into GE. RainbowChaser steered a reasonable zig-zag course through the Bosphorus and by UK lunchtime on 11 August was in the Sea of Marmaris.

### **Marmara**

Crossing the Sea of Marmara gave a breather from the narrows of the Bosphorus and before the equally narrow Dardanelles. Leaving RainbowChaser to gently curve on a TWA I returned to the helm some hours later to find that her crew had decided another bbq was in order. This time on the S coast of Marmara Island. After unbeaching, a couple more zigzags were set to bring me to the entrance of the Dardanelles by 2230utc. Then it was just a question of guesstimating a few zigzag DCs and knowing that I would wake having become Beached Az once more!



## **Dardanelles**

Racing on Sailonline in a close-channelled race requiring either superb DC-skills OR a hand on the tiller is not really up to much when you either just must sleep or have appointments that inevitably take you away from the screen just when you need to be there. Probably RainbowChaser's record for the Dardanelles this time – a total of three beachings. The first at Gelibolu bay (known more widely by the name Gallipoli), the second at an unnamed (on GE) bay that might look like this at sunset:



and the third as I emerged from the straits into the Aegean on Bozcada Island – looking something like this:



Finally, at 1400utc on 12 August I regained my helm and, having lost 20 places, now resolved to improve on my current ranking!

## **The Aegean Islands**

I made reasonable progress and a couple of overnight DCs worked reasonably well, but I woke late to find myself beached again, this time on the tiny islet of Mavria



“Unsticking” I decided to take advantage of the slightly stronger winds in the wider channel offshore and, getting sidetracked by non-SOL stuff, I only returned to steer back for the tucked-away Antalya turn. As I write I am umpteen hours away from this waypoint – but it may be done before I turn in tonight! If this were reality, I don’t think I would see any other Sailonline vessels, but AIS as always reveals just how busy this area is, especially at this time of year!

## **Home leg**

After taking longer than anticipated to get to Antalya, real life took my attention away somewhat from optimising my course to Iskenderun but I arrived at the finish line in 47th place so... just inside top 50! I am pretty pleased with this.

RainbowChaser/ August 2016