

Bazaruto PYOC Sprint 2016



After what seemed like an eternity at sea off Portugal on our tall ship, the Bazaruto PYOC looked like just what the doctor ordered to shake off the cobwebs. The start time was early for our time zone, but it would mean that I'd have a couple of hours before the rest of the crew was up and wanting to get going for the day.

Prior to heading off to the bunk, a check of the weather showed stronger winds to the west, so the plan was to sail a little looser and try to

get out to them early. I set a couple of DCs, just in case my alarm didn't get me up and going, and shut down for the night. This turned out to be a good choice, because I missed the start by about 15 minutes. When I finally got things up and running, I found myself in a small group with bonknhoot, MustangMark, WINSTON_4 and a few others heading a bit more west than the leaders. I thought that this was a good group to be sailing with, and we continued out almost to Santa Carolina Island.

From there, it was one quick gybe and a downhill run all the way to the finish. Our group began catching those who had taken the more direct route until we got to Zoe. I thought I might have a slight edge as we rounded the Southwestern tip of Magaruque Island, but then... bad news! The admiral's car was broken down and I had to go and pick her up and take the car to the shop! Worse, my cell was dead, so I'd have to set a final bearing and hope for the best. Turns out, I picked well enough to just hold off Zoe by 1 second, and finally got my first win in a non-timed race, after a string of second places. Whooo hoo!



Weirdly, Southern Hemisphere races seem to bring good fortune my way. Maybe in a former life I lived down under. Or, maybe, as a left hander, I read the Coriolis Effect better when it spins the other way. Either way, I'd like to make a motion that from this point forward, all SOL racing should take place south of the Equator. Thanks to the SOL team for putting together another great race.

-longreacher

August 20, 2016