

SSANZ Safety at Sea Two-Handed Triple Series 2016

Race Report by "Zoe"

Sailonline has for a while now, organized small "series" of races to make our favorite pastime even more interesting and should I say, even more addicted. It is all fine with me.

One of the most popular "series" is the SSANZ Safety at Sea Two-Handed Triple Series. Which is a real race in New Zealand.

This year I won the first race of the series here on Sailonline and because of that, I guess, I started looking forward for the other two races.

Race 2:

This was a big triangle with start and finish in Auckland, NZ. It was a fantastic race with a nice breeze and a bit of everything, upwind, downwind and reaching. The fleet was extremely compacted with perhaps 20 boats within 1 minute apart. I had one of my best mark turn ever, I counted the hops, hit the send-command at the right time and turned the mark very tight; a lot of this is luck; it is very difficult to time the hops with precision, but sometimes it happens. Because of my perfect turn I went from the mid of the leading pack of 20 or so boats to first! Just like that. 80% luck, 20% daredevil.

Then it was a long reaching to Rakino; all good onboard "Zoe" when disaster struck. I guess I was tired, or maybe I wasn't prepared to win two races in a row; I misplace my CC bearing to TWA and hit send-command. The boat spanned 180 degrees going in opposite direction of the target; I immediately corrected the mistake and sent the right command. Performance Loss at 80%, and 1 mile or so behind the leaders and a really devastated old-sailor sitting like a dog behind a keyboard and staring at the screen in disbelief.

Well, in this situations you can cry, you can blame everything, but you must keep going. Because these New Zealand races happens late at night for us in the East coast of the US and very late for the Europeans; many sailors started to hit the rocks and settling on a cozy BBQ for the remaining of the night and as it happened I crossed the line in 6th place. Not bad at all giving my hiccup in imputing commands.

Race 3:

My goal in this final race was to beat "rumskib" by a few boats in order to win the series. LOL. That is a tall order as you all know and surprise surprise, it didn't happen. He finished the race in 3rd and "Zoe" in 5th.

At the end of the series, "rumskib" got the Gold, I got the Silver and "longreacher" the Bronze.

I am not complaining at all. Thanks every one, sailonline rocks!

Antonio "Zoe"