

## Hawaiian ZigZag 2016



In the 2015 version of the Hawaiian Zig Zag, I was pretty green. I was competitive early in the race, but had no idea how to handle a wind shift that occurred between Hawaii Hawi and Kaho'olawe. I was glad to get a shot at redemption this year.

This year's race was quite a bit more straightforward, with a steady wind blowing from the east. I actually had a bit of a poor start. I forgot what boat I was racing, and spent the first few minutes sailing at a pretty steep angle into the wind. Once I realized that everyone else was fleeing away from my location, I got things on board under control again and I was off. That initial mistake may have actually put me in a bit of a better wind than some of the boats around me, and I rounded the first mark in the top five.

As we came around the top of the big island, I had a meeting that I had to attend, which turned out to be in an area without any cell service. It was a nerve-racking few hours until I was able to check in and find that I was still in contention.

Had to get up a couple of times overnight to make a couple of tight roundings, but everyone at the front was making excellent roundings as well. By good fortune, each time I gybed, I seemed to gain a bit on the leaders.

For much of the second half of the race, I chased rafa, and was chased by Hirilonde. The last reach and gybe made the difference. By staying a bit wide, I was able to find a little more wind, and when we crossed south of Ni'ihau Island, my speedy little trimaran found itself in the lead for the drag race to the finish.

Thanks to Jawz for the course design, and to the SOL team for putting this on the schedule.

longreacher

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016