

## Carib Rum Run 2016 Report.

The Rum Run is an opportunity to add a dose of nonsense to SOLing and I would encourage more skippers to change their boat names. Life tends to be a serious business - we need to include a good measure of nonsense.

In the first half of the race a number of course options presented.

The options I took turned out to be the marginally faster ones and after four days I found myself top five, the leading bunch included boats who had taken different options. From that point on it was mostly downwind - get to Cancun as fast as you can. I could sniff my first win and put more time than usual into this race including 0230hrs get ups for the 1630Wx's and SOTP at roundings and through Isla Saona Strait. That's crazy – must have been the rum.

In the leading bunch mistakes were made and roundings missed but having left Appleton the race was open.

I spent much of the run to Cancun sharing the lead and exchanging insults with Fluffy\_DanceLightly (aka Schlumpi787) who has been doing well in his short time SOLing - I congratulate him on his first podium and first win. rafa was a worry, he seemed always able to find extra speed and good position.

On the long run to Cancun some of the well performed, leading bunch who were just slightly east of our position suddenly gybed west for an hour. This worried me – what did they see? Why didn't my routing suggest this?

Why would they make that commitment just before a Wx was due?

Whatever the reason it actually cost them time without gain and more or less confirmed the podium.

I had planned on being west of the bunch to give me a good angle and fast run on the last run to Cancun which enabled me to pass DIKKEHENK and stay ahead of Neuroman for a happy podium.

No report would be complete without acknowledgement of the time and effort put into SOL by the volunteer administrators. Congratulations on a job well done and sincere thanks to all of you.

I love the Rum Run.

Slimy Gobspittle (aka Billy)