

Carib Rum Run 2016

Report by rafa

I am happy to be back to a podium finish after some time. Especially in this race which is one of the few SOL races held in waters where I have sailed in real life.

My first good decision was to go east of the Guadalupe Island, this gave an advantage over the western boats when approaching Anegada. The second good move was to cut through the Saona strait south of Santo Domingo; this happened in the middle of the European night, but not a bad time for me, so I took some advantage of that.

Consequently, approaching the Brugal mark I was leading the fleet by about 2 miles. My DC to round Brugal was too short and my boat turned south before time. I was lucky to realize quickly and returned along my trailing line to round the mark, but when I did the mark message didn't change to "rounded". I thought maybe I had passed too close and the system didn't recognize it, so I repeated the maneuver making a wider turn, but again nothing happened. I came back for a third time, this time trying the other way around just in case but still nothing happened. By that time my trailing line was all around the mark and I couldn't understand anymore. I thought maybe a software problem, or a pirate curse, or Caribbean witchcraft. By that time my closest followers Aussies Fluffy and Slimy had already passed the mark. Having nothing else to do, and being short of time, I decided to continue sailing just for the fun of it, so I set my DC southwards and went back to work. Next time I watched my screen, to my surprise, the mark now read "rounded" and I was in position 3 about 2 miles behind the leaders. Still don't understand what happened, but it felt good to be racing again.

From that moment Fluffy and Slimy became my travel companions and tight contenders. By the time we got to the Appleton mark we were almost tied again and the last leg to the finish was intensively fought. Fluffy held very well and got a well deserved win; I believe it is his first win so double congratulations for him. Slimy as well did a great race, and the followers, which I didn't mention before were catching up and were getting closer every time, Dikke, Ned, Neuroman, Hook, congrats to all and thanks for sailing.

Thanks to organizers and RC for nice prize.

rafa

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