

First Ever Podium

This year, Mistli's Birthday BBQ started at 4:00am local time for me, so the first tactical decision was if I wanted to actually miss sleep time in order to participate. After looking the course over again, it was apparent that there would be lots of "hands on the tiller" time due to the vast number of islands sprinkled throughout the course. This is well suited for me as I'm strictly a SOTP SOL sailor. So I set a start DC and my alarm.

The route I had planned for the first leg to Mistli Island took me east of Orno, but west of most of the other islands. It may have been due to a lack of coffee, but I changed the route through the islands 4 or 5 times during the leg, ultimately ending up threading through the middle of the islands. Initially I thought those on the outside were ahead due to more wind, but it turned out that the inside route (that I abandoned) was the faster one.

Rounded Mistli 1 in about 12th place. The leg to Oja was uneventful, just a matter of watching out for SLI's. Kipper graciously gifted us all a place by overstanding the mark at Oja. Thank you, Kip!

My strategy on the upwind leg to the finish was to limit the number of tacks, as the Secart 30 suffers a fair performance drop while tacking. Stayed left to take advantage of the header, and then thought I had a good route planned to tack through the islands. Unfortunately, I didn't see the route taken by Happy Hour & Kenza who continued to the right in stronger wind. When all the boats closed together at the narrow straight just before the finish, it became apparent that my minimal tacking route had paid off somewhat and propelled me into the top 10. The wind then lightened enough that the Seacart could head just high enough to transit the narrow straight using only two tacks and lay the finish line directly. Fortunately managed to avoid BBQ'ing there and came out in top 5. Kenza kindly put in an extra pair of tacks allowing me to pull ahead and trail only Happy Hour to the finish, earning my first SOL Podium!!!!!!

brewman /October 2016