

Lake Superior Lights 2016 Report by Patrick70119

Wow...where to start...this race was definitely by far one of the most enjoyable races I've sailed in a very long time! ;)) When I saw the race open I didn't know if I would be able to sail it because I wasn't going to be there for the first +/- 6 hours, so I decided to set DC's for the first 6 hours ;))

When I got back and saw myself still "afloat" I was extremely impressed and happy enough myself that I had a goal of just to be in the top 30 in this race ;)) Sailing to Michipicoten Island was pretty much almost a straight line, I rounded Michipicoten Island in 20th place which I was very happy with and could afford to drop back a bit so I decided to sail almost a straight line to Caribou Island and went to sleep (It was a really good sleep) ;)) I set my alarm and I rounded Caribou Island, I saw myself in 14th place and I was wondering what I did wrong and I felt really guilty doing so well when I had a great nights sleep ;))

After rounding Caribou island I was all "fresh" and well rested and decided to sail my absolute best for the rest of the race :) I sailed almost a straight line to Stannard Rock Light and when I got there I could see how the wind was better if I turned right after the mark and went away from land, I saw that not many people had turned and that made me worry and doubt myself but I had a gut feeling that I was going the correct way :))

I then had to leave home to take my girlfriend on a much deserved date so I decided to set very rough DC's to Passage Island Light and get going, I got back just before it was time to round Passage Island Light and I almost had a heart attack when I saw that I was in 2nd Place!!!! :))

I then knew that I had to think fast and find a route to go after I had rounded the mark so I decided to go at about 220 degrees, I set some rough DC's again as I was getting tired and decided to go to bed. I woke up and I was in 28th place which I couldn't blame myself as I was sleeping the whole night, at this point I was watching rafa, rumskib and RICOTINA who were right there with me :) It was then up to when was the right time to tack down towards the finish, nobody else had tacked but I decided to tack down earlier and it seemed to work as I was in 2nd place again ;))

It was a HUGE surprise when I finished in 2nd place! ;)) Congratulations to all finishers! ;))

I'm not sure if I'm still the youngest SOLer of 18 years old but I just wanted to let you all know that you can achieve it if you put your mind to it and you should always try your best ;))

I find SOL a magnificent site where I can practice my routing skills and I can see this helping me one day as it is my dream to take part in and finish the **Vendée Globe** one day and I am working towards this goal of mine :) I just wanted to say thank you to all my fellow SOL'ers for all the amazing competition and great chats and thank you to SOL for providing us with an amazing site and for all that you do for us! ;))

Sail your best and never give up no matter what! ;))

No matter how old or young you are, age is just a number and you can achieve anything!