

Abel T. Appreciation Race, start 4.12., finish 9.12.

I started first night on TWA course which first took me as intended towards east, but later during the night as the wind shifted heading off to NE. Not so intended. But so in the first morning when I woke up the situation was such that I was in position 101, some 45nm behind the leaders. That was not a big surprise but more interestingly I was the boat furthest to the north and there were only very few boats on the line between myself and the finish. Most boats were far-far south from where I was.

Since there was roughly 1000nm to go, I calculated that I was behind by some 4-5% in distance. A lot indeed but not hopeless, so time to think how to make the best of the situation.

During the first day the wind direction went from south to east so I kind of automatically drifted further towards north still. There was one boat "idle" which was very annoyingly between me and the finish and heading in the same northeasterly direction as I was. So I figured to sit tight and hope for "idle" to jibe away, which she eventually on Monday evening did. I continued for another 4 hours straight towards north and when I then finally turned east the closest boat was over 100nm towards SE from me. Now the stage was clear, there was absolutely nobody between me and the finish line.

I was still 80nm or 10% behind the leaders but other than that everything seemed better than ever. Could it be this easy, is there something I haven't thought of. One day sailed and still more than 3 days to go, but all done already. Rest of race was basically just cruising towards east on CC.

Incredible how this win came, I have tried so hard in earlier races during the years and still finished like 30 or something. This time a good sleep the first night solved it all.

Good sleep together with a fair amount of luck!

See you next time,

BS1 /December 2016