

Channel Islands Ramble 2017

This race is a real challenge for those who are diehard sailors, there are eight islands to sail around in a slalom like course. The start date and time suited me well, as I was off from work this week.

A first glance at the race and the number of boats starting (approximately 100 boats) I saw that there was a good chance to do well in the race.

- Start to San Miguel Island.

At this leg I made a small error taking a too curved course due to my own miscalculation for the TWA.. Well, this is a race a bit over two days so I was not all too much concerned. I saw bonknhoot, psail and Alexandria in the leader group.

- San Miguel to Santa Rosa Island

At this leg I used QtVLM for a guidance, good help but I made my own nearly straight course. Still in the leader group there were bonknhoot, Alexandria and psail.

- Santa Rosa Island to White Rock and further to Anacapa Lighthouse

After Santa Rosa I made two tacks South to achieve good wind angle to White Rock. Knowing that the new WX soon coming up I took a course a bit more South to be sure if the winds should change. And it did.. The new WX gave us all new conditions, the sailors positioned a bit South gained, and the TWA curve looked very different than it did before. bonknhoot in the lead followed by Alexandria.

- Anacapa Lighthouse to San Nicolas Island

Knowing there are just a few opportunities for sleep if I should get a good position I managed to sleep for a while.

- San Nicolas to Shag Rock and further to Indian Rock

These two legs were nearly straight ahead. bonknhoot was still in the lead followed by Alexandria and psail. I managed to gain a few positions, but I saw rumskib gaining positions also and that made me a bit stressed. Just after Indian Rock I made four tacks to take advantage of the slight windshift.

- Indian Rock to San Clemente Island

Using a few safe DCs at this leg I managed to get some sleep. Calculating the finish would be around 0400 local time it was absolutely necessary. With two alarm clocks it went well! Waking up in time for the turn I had rumskib chasing me, just 0.05 NM behind. At this point I realized that rumskib and I were in a battle for 3rd place.. bonknhoot in the lead followed by Alexandria.

- San Clemente Island to Finish in San Diego

I tried QtVLM and he and I did not agree.. Anyhow, I went a long bit South to stay in stronger winds and to have good wind angle for the last two hours of the race. At winds at 15 to 16 kts winds I sailed with lower TWA than optimum due to how the polar look. bonknhoot still in the lead followed by Alexandria. I tried to catch up them but I found myself instead fighting for #3. As Alexandria said in the chat – fending off rumskib was a gruelling task.

Hats off for bonknhoot and Alexandria!