

Rendezvous 2017 - Tall Ships Regatta - Sines to Bermuda

I've never heard of a shipping route from the Canaries to Bermuda that took you past the Azores, but here we were, heading north, while the more sensible stayed with the real tall ships along the southerly route.

We northerners had to stay close hauled all the way to Bermuda, which again, seems counterintuitive, especially in the big square riggers.

The advantage slipped back and forth a few times as we made the crossing, but in the end, the northerners prevailed. During our final southern drive, in dying winds, I had to make a few additional tacks west to ensure I'd be able to reach the finish line. Each time I did, I dropped a few miles and a few positions to the leaders. Fortunately my additional westerly progress paid off and I was able to track down a few leaders during the final few miles.

On a technical note, I raced this race while in 4 different time zones, which kept me on my toes as to when weather updates would be posted. I have to say though, that I really prefer racing in my temporary home of UTC-6, as opposed to my usual UTC-3, where I would usually miss the 1:30 AM weather update entirely. Here, I catch it at 10:30 PM, and wake up an hour into the 4:30 AM one. No more long nights sailing blind.

As always, thanks to the SOL team for putting this together.

-longreacher

May 20th, 2017

