

Red Dot 2017 - Leg 3 - Alaska to San Francisco

This was a race in two parts, first we had to get out of the confines of the Arctic, with its 10 second days and nights, then into the wide open Pacific, where we had the freedom to pick our path with impunity.

I had hosed up the first leg a bit, throwing in a couple of extra tacks, and not watching my performance loss closely enough. Normally in a long ocean race like this, those are pretty minor errors, but with the level of competition so high in the SOL world, I found myself back in about 20th as we rounded Mount Westdahl.

Then, a bit of a break. A split in the pack, most of the fleet headed south, while a small group of us plowed our way west. Depending on the next few weather forecasts, our gamble would put me back in the hunt for a podium spot, or knock me out altogether. Fortunately the wind gods cast their dice in our favour and StIngFI, Kipper1258, Bimmer and I settled down for a 72 hour drag race for the finish. Bimmer was slightly ahead for the final push, but was a bit north of me, and had to make one last course correction about 40 nm from the finish which granted me the final podium spot.

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

-longreacher

June 21st, 2017

